

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Minute No. 285

El Paso, Texas  
November 8, 1991

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED USE ZONE  
ON LANDS ADJACENT TO THE MAIN CHANNEL OF THE RIO GRANDE  
IN THE VICINITY OF  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS/MATAMOROS, TAMAULIPAS

The Commission met in the offices of the United States Section in El Paso, Texas at 10:00 a.m. on November 8, 1991, to consider establishing a restricted use zone on lands adjacent to the main channel of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas/Matamoros, Tamaulipas, within any proposed construction of works are subject to the judgment of the Commission in fulfillment of Article IV, B (1) of the Treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States to "Resolve Pending Boundary Differences and Maintain the Rio Grande and the Colorado River as the International Boundary," signed November 23, 1970, hereinafter "1970 Boundary Treaty."

The Commissioners reviewed the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Relative to Establishing A Restricted Use Zone on Lands Adjacent to the Main Channel of the Rio Grande in the Vicinity of Brownsville, Texas/Matamoros, Tamaulipas," signed by United States Section Principal Engineer Conrad G. Keyes, Jr. and Mexican Section Principal Engineer Luis A. Rascon Mendoza, on November 6, 1991. At the same time, the Commissioners observed that the Principal Engineers recommend that on lands adjacent to the main channel of the Rio Grande between the B&M Bridge, at Mile 55.2 (Km 88.8), and Mile 45.0 (Km 72.4,) as described in the Joint Report and illustrated on Exhibit C of that Report, would constitute a restricted use zone within which the Commission exercises its judgment on whether construction of works proposed in this zone may cause deflection or obstruction of the normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande.

Based on the above, the Commissioners agreed to submit the following recommendations for the approval of the two Governments:

1. The "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Relative to Establishing A Restricted Use Zone on Lands Adjacent to the Main Channel of Rio Grande in the Vicinity of Brownsville, Texas/Matamoros, Tamaulipas", signed by United States Section Principal Engineer Conrad G. Keyes, Jr. and Mexican Section

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Principal Engineer Luis Rascon Mendoza on November 6, 1991, is approved, and along with its Exhibits A to C forms a part of this Minute.

2. The zone on lands adjacent to the main channel of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas/Matamoros, Tamaulipas which would constitute the restricted use zone, covers the floodplain of the Rio Grande between the B&M Bridge at Mile 55.2 (Km 88.8), and Mile 45.0 (Km 72.4) in accordance with that established in Exhibit C of the Principal Engineers Report and the following description:
  - a) In the zone between Mile 52.5 (Km 84.5) and Mile 45.0 (Km 72.4) a minimum width is established of a least 2,300 feet (700 meters), perpendicular to the river's normal flow in the centerline of the river which forms the international boundary. In this case, a minimum distance of 300 feet (91.4 meters) from the centerline of the normal flow channel of the river to where works are constructed by either country must be considered.
  - b) In the zone between Mile 55.2 (Km 88.8) and Mile 52.7 (Km 84.8) a minimum width is established of 328 feet (100 meters) perpendicular to the river's normal flow in the centerline of the river which forms the international boundary.
  - c) Between Mile 52.7 (Km 84.8) and Mile 52.5 (Km 84.5) a transition zone is established with a variable width between 328 feet (100 meters) and 2,300 feet (700 meters) perpendicular to the river's normal flow in the centerline of the river which forms the international boundary.

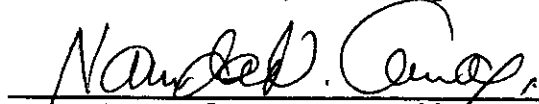
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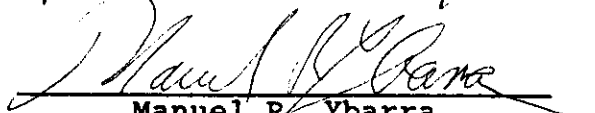
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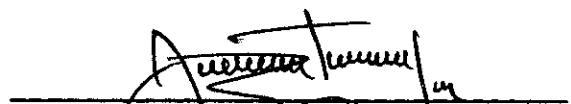
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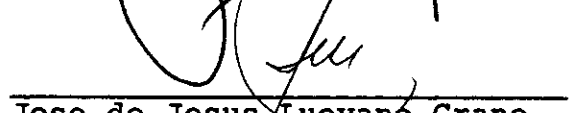
3. The zone defined in Recommendation 2) will have a restricted use within which the Commission exercises its judgment on whether proposed construction of works in this zone may cause deflection or obstruction of the normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande in accordance with stipulations in Article IV, paragraph B(1) of the 1970 Boundary Treaty. Outside of this zone both Governments may utilize their respective lands in accordance to laws in force in each country.
4. This Minute requires the specific approval of the two Governments.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Narendra N. Gunaji  
United States Commissioner

  
Manuel R. Ybarra  
United States Section  
Secretary

  
J. Arturo Herrera Solis  
Mexican Commissioner

  
Jose de Jesus Luevano Grano  
Mexican Section  
Secretary