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Environment: Garrison Dam, Columbia River, the IJC, NGOs Proceedings of the Canada-United States Law Institute Conference on Multiple Actors in Canada-U.S. Relations: Environment: Garrison Dam, Columbia River, the IJC, NGOs: Introduction

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ENVIRONMENT: GARRISON DAM, COLUMBIA RIVER, THE IJC, NGOS

Brad Smith
Introduction

My name is Brad Smith. I have been asked to Chair this panel. I have beside me two distinguished academics. I am not going to attempt to add, subtract, or otherwise introduce the subject in any fashion whatsoever, but to tell you that both of these gentlemen are experienced and distinguished.

The title, as you will see, of the program is I would not call it vague, but all-inclusive, "The Environment: Garrison Dam, Columbia River, the IJC and NGOs." Well, that takes in a lot of territory.

What we are going to talk about is one aspect of the Columbia and the difficulties that are encountered there; and one aspect, I do not know whether you could call it of the Garrison, but of a project involving Devil's Lake.

John Knox and I have participated in other activities, and I know John is a very knowledgeable and very experienced person both as an academic, as an Officer in the State Department, as a person who has practiced law, and who is generally a nice guy. I asked John a moment ago what he was going to discuss. He said he did not have a title, but he would develop one. We have decided in a sort of arbitrary fashion that Nigel Bankes would go first.

Nigel is a Professor of Law at the University of Calgary. He has a long experience in environmental and water matters. Indeed, I understood from the conversation I had with him a few minutes ago that one of his first experiences and exposures was with the Skagit River Project with which I was involved at one stage. Therefore, he and I go back a long way in terms of rivers and in terms of projects and the environment. Moreover, he does have a very extensive and important experience in this area. I am going to ask him to lead off and he will then be followed by John Knox.

