

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY REGULATION OF THE LEVEL OF RAINY LAKE  
AND OF OTHER BOUNDARY WATERS IN THE RAINY LAKE WATERSHED

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER

to the Order Prescribing Method of Regulating the Levels of Boundary Waters, dated 8 June 1949, as amended by Supplementary Orders dated 1 October 1957 and 29 July 1970.

The Commission was informed on April 8, 1997 by the International Rainy Lake Board of Control that the Mayor of the Town of Rainy River had expressed concern over high water levels in Rainy River and the threat of serious flooding in the town. The Board had been informed that some flooding was already occurring.

According to the International Rainy Lake Board of Control, the high water levels in the river are the result of spring runoff including runoff from local tributaries and discharges from Rainy Lake as prescribed by the Commission's Order, combined with ice jams at the mouth of Rainy River. This situation has resulted from extraordinary weather conditions this year.

The Commission's Order Prescribing Method of Regulating the Levels of Boundary Waters, dated June 8, 1949, as amended, specifies that the discharge facilities at the International Falls-Fort Frances dam and at the Kettle Falls dam be operated in such a manner that, insofar as possible, the levels of Rainy and Namakan Lakes remain within their operating bands in order to prevent the occurrence of emergency conditions.

The Commission has been advised by the International Rainy Lake Board of Control that Rainy Lake is within its prescribed band and that a reduction of outflows from Rainy Lake from 580 cms to 140 cms for a period of three days would assist in reducing water levels in the Rainy River without significantly increasing the risk of exceeding the emergency level on Rainy Lake.

The Commission was also advised by the International Rainy Lake Board of Control that, notwithstanding the fact that Namakan Lake is outside the band prescribed in the Commission's Order, outflows from Namakan Lake can also be reduced by an amount to be determined by the Board for a period of three days without significantly increasing the risk of exceeding the emergency level on Namakan Lake. This would help assure that the levels of Rainy Lake would not exceed its emergency level.

The International Rainy Lake Board of Control informed the Commission that it would be in a position to provide more extensive information and advice on the situation on Friday, April 11, 1997.

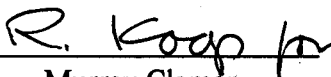
The Commission believes that it is in the public interest to reduce the outflow from Rainy and Namakan Lakes for a period of three days to help relieve flooding conditions in the town of Rainy River.

THE COMMISSION at 6:30 pm on April 8, 1997 THEREFORE ORDERED AND DIRECTED that, notwithstanding the terms of the above noted Order, as amended,

- (i) the outflows from Rainy Lake be reduced to 140 cms,
- (ii) the outflows from Namakan Lake be reduced to an amount to be determined by the Board that will not significantly increase the risk of exceeding the emergency level on Namakan Lake, and
- (iii) these flow reductions be maintained until 11:59 pm, April 11, 1997, at which time outflows from Rainy and Namakan Lakes shall revert to those prescribed in the above noted Order, as amended, subject to further instructions from the Commission.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1997

By the Commission



Murray Clamen  
Acting Secretary  
Canadian Section