

# Directive for Communication and Public Outreach Activities for the Rainy - Namakan Lake Rule Curves Study

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1. Public participation in the study will be objectives-driven. The principal objectives are to:
  - a. Make the public aware of the study and provide opportunities to participate;
  - b. Identify and consider the public's views of the principal issues, questions and study objectives
  - c. Explain the decision-making process of the study;
  - d. Insure that the study process is open, inclusive and fair;
  - e. Identify and consider the public's priorities and preferences;
  - f. Identify and utilize local expertise and information;
  - g. Enhance public understanding of the causes of problems related to fluctuating water levels and of the consequences of proposed solutions;
  - h. Broadly disseminate study findings as they become available; and
  - i. Encourage the public to assist in disseminating study findings.
  
2. The Study Board will directly engage early with Aboriginal peoples including but not limited to, First Nations, Metis and Native American Tribes in the basin to seek their input in the Rule Curve evaluation and their involvement in the Rule Curve Public Advisory Group (RCPAG, described below).
  
3. For purposes of the study, the "public will include everyone who is interested in the rule curve review, or who could be affected by it, including the following groups:
  - a. Governments at all levels;
  - b. Native Americans/Aboriginal Peoples, including but not limited to First Nations, Metis and Native American Tribes;
  - c. Upstream/downstream riparians.
  - d. Commercial navigation;
  - e. Environment;
  - f. General public;
  - g. Hydroelectric power;
  - h. Domestic water supply and sanitation; and
  - i. Recreational boating.

4. To facilitate public outreach and consultation, the Study Board shall make information related to the study as widely available as practicable, including white papers, data, reports of the Study Board or any of its subgroups, and other materials, as appropriate. The Study Board supported by the IJC Communications staff shall maintain a web-site as a means for disseminating information related to implementation of the Plan of Study, and will use the IJC website to encourage public discussion of such information. To the extent practicable, the Study Board shall make available on the web-site all documents that are available for public information under the Commission's Rules of Procedure, including public comment and other information made available by decision pursuant to the Rules of Procedure.
  
5. In carrying out its public participation activities, the Study Board will be assisted by a Rule Curve Public Advisory Group (RCPAG). This advisory group is to receive its direction from and directly liaise with the Study Board. The RCPAG should consist of no fewer than eight members to be appointed by the International Joint Commission (IJC or “the Commission”) after consultations with the Study Board, with an objective to include at least one member from the United States and Canada from each of the following groups, who also live or operate within the study geography (where possible):
  - a. Lake/property owners associations;
  - b. Navigation interests;
  - c. Environmental organizations;
  - d. First Nations, Metis and Tribes;
  - e. Tourism and recreation interests;
  - f. Hydro Power companies or organizations; and
  - g. Other interested groups identified by the Study Board that would have a vested interest in the Rainy and Namakan Lake Rule Curve evaluation.
  
6. The IJC shall appoint two co-chairs of the RCPAG, one from the United States and one from Canada. The members of the RCPAG will make their own arrangements for reimbursement of necessary expenditures unless otherwise arranged with the Commission. The RCPAG will meet in the basin, or by teleconference. Members will receive support for their travel to the RCPAG meeting but will not be compensated for their time. Secretarial support will be provided to RCPAG functions, such as distributing documents and organizing meetings, by the Study Manager.
  
7. IJC Communications staff will support the Study Board and RCPAG in its communication and outreach activities.

8. Discussion during RCPAG meetings is to be open, frank and free-flowing. All members of RCPAG have equal status during discussion and are expected to demonstrate fairness and a commitment to in-depth examination of matters under review. Advice from the RCPAG to the Study Board should not necessarily be censures advice, but should reflect the multiplicity of views of its members, although it can weight its advice by noting where most or all members agree. Topics that do not fit within the mandate of the Study should not be discussed. Minutes of RCPAG meetings are prepared and certified for accuracy by the Co-Chairs. Minutes are kept to the minimum detail required to summarize effectively the proceedings and to reflect advice offered. There is no attribution of comments unless specifically requested by a member. RCPAG Co-chairs will be responsible for the approval and distribution of the minutes, with the assistance of the Study Manager. The minutes will be posted to the Study Board website, as authorized by the Study Board. The mission of the RCPAG is to:
  - a. Review and provide comment on Study Board reports and products as requested;
  - b. Advise the Study Board on the responsiveness of the study process to public concerns;
  - c. Advise the Study Board on public consultation, involvement and information exchange; and
  - d. Serve as a conduit for public input to the study process, and for public dissemination of study outcomes.

Members carry out the mandate of RCPAG by:

- a) Demonstrating preparedness for meetings;
  - b) Fostering and contributing to an open and collaborative climate;
  - c) Actively providing constructive input to the deliberations;
  - d) Drawing on their knowledge, contacts and experience to provide informed input into discussions; and
  - e) Maintaining a good attendance record.
9. In order to inform and provide context for the review of the rule curves, members of the Study Board, or others, as determined by the Study Board, will conduct outreach activities with the public at the beginning of the study to identify:
    - a. The public's views of the principal issues, questions and study objectives;
    - b. What information they already have that would be helpful, especially their knowledge of additional studies and other historical data and information;
    - c. How they think they can contribute to the study; and
    - d. Their future plans and activities that could potentially be affected by levels

10. The Study Board will work with the RCPAG throughout the basin and conduct public participation activities at strategic points in the study to:
  - a. Identify and utilize local expertise and information;
  - b. Consult with the public on critical or potentially controversial study findings;
  - c. Disseminate plain language information to enhance public understanding of the Identify and consider the public' priorities and preferences, as well as those of Native American and Aboriginal Peoples, as alternatives are defined and optimized; and
  - d. Consult with the public, as well as Native American and Aboriginal Peoples, on Study Board findings, conclusions and before these study components have been finalized.
11. Study Board meetings will be held at different locations within the study geography to encourage public consultation and meetings will be announced in advance. Opportunities for public observers to attend the meetings should also be announced in advance.
12. Coordination of public outreach activities under the study with public outreach activities of the International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB), and its Water Levels Committee (WLC) is encouraged to avoid confusion and to better inform the public.
13. Information and findings generated by the study process will be made available to the WLC of the IRLWWB as they become available, but the mandate of the IRLWWB and WLC will remain unchanged unless amended by the IJC.
14. The IJC may conduct its own public participation process related to the review of the Rule Curves during the study or after receiving the Study Board's report.

**Signatures**