

Media advisory Water Levels Study - Press Conference and Public Meeting

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, August 27, 2004 – Environmental factors, recreational boating and tourism, coastal erosion and flooding, commercial navigation, water uses and power generation – these are the areas that are being studied by the long-range recommendations that will come from the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study. The Study is in the middle of the fourth year of a five-year mandate to look at how the regulation of water levels can affect some of the most vital interests in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system. They are also taking into account the forecasted effects of climate change.

The Study's Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) is coming to communities in the next few weeks to provide an update on the progress of the Study and consult with interested individuals and groups on how changing water levels could affect communities that depend on the system. The Study Board will report its findings to the International Joint Commission in 2005.

Below is a list of upcoming meetings:

Where: Belleville Ramada Inn On-the-Bay

What: Public consultation meeting

When: September 1, 2004

Media Availability and Display: 6 pm

Public Meeting: 7 pm

Where: Henderson Community Hall, Henderson, NY 8939 Route 178

What: Public consultation meeting

When: September 1, 2004

Media Availability: 4 pm

Display: 6 pm

Public Meeting: 7 pm

Where: Best Western Country Squire Resort, 715 King St. E., Gananoque, ON

What: Public consultation meeting

When: September 2, 2004

Media Availability and Display: 6 pm

Public Meeting: 7 pm

Where: Hewitt Union Ballroom, SUNY Oswego Campus, Oswego, New York

What: Public consultation meeting

When: September 2, 2004

Media Availability: 4 pm

Display: 6 pm

Public Meeting: 7 pm

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The Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study was set in motion in 2000 by the International Joint Commission to evaluate the Commission's Order of Approval used to regulate outflows from Lake Ontario through the St. Lawrence River. The Study is assessing the impacts of changing water levels on affected interests, including the environment, recreational boating and tourism, shoreline communities, commercial navigation, municipal and industrial water uses and hydropower. The Public Interest Advisory Group is a volunteer group appointed by the International Joint Commission to ensure effective communication between the public and the Study Team.