

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE WATER LEVELS STUDY

BUFFALO, NEW YORK - The Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) for the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study is holding a meeting to talk with the public regarding the study to evaluate the current rules for the water level regulation of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The meeting will be held Thursday, August 8, 2002, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Sackets Harbor Central School, 215 South Broad Street, Sackets Harbor, NY.

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study was set in motion in 2000 by the International Joint Commission to assess and evaluate the Order of Approval used to regulate outflows from Lake Ontario through the St. Lawrence River. The current Order of Approval requires that the water levels and flows resulting from the St. Lawrence Seaway Power Project meet certain conditions and criteria to protect the interests in both countries, including shoreline communities, commercial navigation and hydropower production. The Study is also evaluating the impacts of changing water levels on environmental factors, shore erosion, flood damages, recreational boating, and tourism. The 22-member PIAG is a group of U.S. and Canadian volunteers working with the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study to ensure effective two-way communication between the public and the study team. Because the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River System is so complex, most proposed solutions will have consequences for others.

To ensure that the study reflects the interests of the public, the Public Interest Advisory Group will be scheduling meetings in various locations along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shorelines. Upcoming meetings will be held in Belleville, Ontario, and Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada.