

# INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 MEETING

- (i) The Board met on September 15, 2010 at the Old Stone Inn in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ralph Moulton and began at 1:35 p.m.
- (ii) Those participating were:

### Board Members

#### United States

COL J. Drolet  
(Representing MG Peabody)

#### Canada

Mr. R. Moulton

### Secretaries

Mr. J. Kangas

Mr. L. Falkiner

### Working Committee

LTC S. Bales  
Mr. D. Harding  
Mr. E. Tauriainen  
Mr. P. Valeri

Mr. C. Southam  
Ms. J. Frain

### Others

Mr. G. Cotroneo  
Mr. Z. Jeffries  
Mr. J. Oyler  
Ms. E. Paduano  
Mr. P. Yu  
Dr. M. Colisimo

Mr. A. Thompson  
Mr. I. Hagman

1. Mr. Moulton welcomed COL Drolet acting on behalf of the U.S. Co-Chair, MG Peabody. He also welcomed LTC Stephen Bales, the Buffalo District Commander, USACE, as the new U.S. Chair of the Board's Working Committee. The meeting agenda (attached) was approved.
2. The Board was given an update on Lake Erie water levels and Niagara River flows. The level of Lake Erie began the reporting period 10 centimetres (3.9 inches) below its long-term average for the month of March. Below-average precipitation in the winter and spring kept the level below average. The May through July precipitation values, which were 30-45 percent above average, pushed the monthly levels closer to their long-term average, but not above those levels. Lake Erie's net basin supply was well below average in August. The lake level peaked on a monthly basis in June, at 174.31 metres (571.88 feet), which was 2 centimetres (0.8 inch) below the long-term average for the month.

Lakes Michigan and Huron continued to be well below the long-term average during this reporting period. As a result, inflows to Lake Erie from the upstream lakes were below the long-term average for the six-month period March through August.

The Niagara River flow at Queenston for March through August was 5755 cubic metres per second (203,250 cubic feet per second) which was 234 cubic metres per second (9,250 cubic feet per second) lower than the same period last year.

3. A summary of the 2009-10 ice season was presented. Removal of the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom began on March 22 and was completed on March 24. On March 29, the New York Power Authority crew began towing the individual spans up the Buffalo River to the boom's new storage site, where the ground crew pulled them on shore. Movement of the spans

along the Buffalo River and placement onto the new storage site went very well. The process of moving the spans to the storage site took 7 days this year compared to around 2 ½ days in the past. Since this was the first time the new site has been used, it is anticipated that the number of days required to complete this phase will decrease as experience is gained.

It was agreed that comments on the draft 2009-10 Ice Boom Report be incorporated, the report finalized, printed, and forwarded to the International Joint Commission.

4. Operation and maintenance of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool Control Structure during the reporting period was discussed. As of the end of August, the accumulated deviations were at +0.45 metre-month (+1.48 foot-month), well within the maximum allowable range of +/-0.91 metre-months (+/-3.0 foot-months). Tolerances for regulation of the Pool were suspended for March 13 and 14 due to abnormally low flows.

The Board was informed that a major overhaul of Gate 10 is nearing completion and that a minor overhaul of seals will be performed on Gate 14 upon completion of the work on Gate 10.

As a result of inspections done in 2008, replacement of oil lines on Gates 1-13 has begun. This work will be completed on Gate 2 this year and will continue next year at the rate of three gates per year thereafter. The oil lines in the newer gates (14-18) do not need to be replaced.

The Power Entities have undertaken a bathymetric survey of certain areas of the Grass Island Pool to determine if maintenance dredging may be required to remove impediments to ice movement. An additional benefit of the survey will be to provide up-to-date data to assist the ice breaker crews in navigating the Pool. The Board agreed that a program to provide

information to the public be undertaken early in the permitting process should maintenance dredging be required.

The Canadian Secretary informed the Board that a final request will be made to the Canadian Coast Guard to have the warning sign for boaters at the Welland River replaced

A revised Board Directive for regulation of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool has been completed and will be forwarded to the Power Entities by the Board Secretaries. This revision does not change the parameters for regulation of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool. It contains some minor changes in wording intended to clarify certain aspects of the Directive.

5. The Board was informed that measurements were taken at the International Railway Bridge Section in May. This series was made to verify measurements made the year before, to coordinate methods used by both countries, and to investigate the possible effect of a moving river bed on flow measurements. The results are being reviewed and a recommendation on revising the Buffalo Rating will be made in the spring of 2011. Also in May, scheduled measurements were made in the Welland Canal. A schedule for upcoming measurement programs was submitted to the Board. Measurements are planned for the Fall of 2010 at the Cableway, and at the American Falls Section in 2012

The Board noted that there have been no operational problems experienced by tour boat operators as the result of implementation of the new Ashland Avenue Gauge rating.

6. Construction of a third tunnel at Niagara to supply additional water to the Sir Adam Beck Complex continues. Tunnelling and intake construction are progressing concurrently. To date, the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)

has progressed 8.1 kilometres (5.0 miles) which is about 80% of the entire tunnel length. Invert concrete has progressed 5.5 kilometres (3.4 miles), profile restoration 2.5 kilometres (1.6 miles) and arched concrete 400 metres (1,312 feet).

The Board was informed that the upgrade of Unit 9 of OPG's Sir Adam Beck I Generating Station is nearing completion. The unit will be re-watered on September 24<sup>th</sup> and it is anticipated that it will be returned to service about 3 weeks later. Unit testing is expected to be undertaken early in 2011. The next upgrade will be to Unit 3 beginning near the end of 2011.

7. The International Niagara Board of Control's annual meeting with the public will be held on the evening of September 15, 2010 in Niagara Falls, New York. Information on items including current and projected Great Lakes levels, the operation of the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom, the Board's measurement program and OPG's Niagara Tunnel Project will be presented.
8. A draft of the Board's One Hundred Fifteenth Semi-Annual Progress Report to the International Joint Commission was reviewed. Comments will be incorporated and advance copies furnished to the Commission.

The Secretaries will submit signed versions to the Commission Secretaries in Ottawa at the fall appearance. The Board noted that the appearance is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, October 20, 2010 in the Commission's Ottawa boardroom.

9. Representatives from the Power Entities and the cableway owners (Environment Canada and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) are working

towards removal of the Cableway in 2011. The Board noted that the cableway is in a safe condition. The Power Entities have contacted Halkin Services Inc. to discuss removal of the cableway that spans the lower Niagara River, just upstream of the high-head plants. Specifications will be developed and a contract will be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. The cableway is no longer required as discharge measurements are now taken using boat mounted Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers.

10. The Board agreed the next meeting will be held in Buffalo, New York during the March 22-24 period.
11. There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions
3. Operation of Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom and review of report
4. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool operations
5. Review discharge measurements program
  - a. Welland Canal
  - b. Niagara River
6. OPG tunnel status and plant upgrades
7. 2010 Meeting with the Public
8. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report
9. Other Business
  - Cableway Removal
10. Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance

ATTACHMENT