

# INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING

- (i) The Board met on September 16, 2009 at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ralph Moulton and began at 1:00 p.m.
- (ii) Those participating were:

### Board Members

#### United States

COL J. Drolet  
(Representing MG Peabody)  
Mr. D. Mahoney

#### Canada

Mr. R. Moulton

### Secretaries

Mr. J. Kangas

Mr. L. Falkiner

### Working Committee

LTC D. Snead  
Mr. D. Harding  
Mr. S. Thieme  
Mr. P. Valeri

Mr. C. Southam  
Ms. J. Frain  
Mr. L. Christl

### Others

Mr. G. Cotroneo  
Dr. M. Colisimo  
Ms. D. Lee  
Mr. E. Tauriainen  
Mr. D. Hendler  
Mr. Z. Jeffries  
Mr. J. Oyler  
Ms. C. Fisher

Mr. P. Trépanier  
Mr. T. McAuley  
Ms. G. Faveri

1. Mr. Moulton welcomed COL Drolet acting on behalf of the U.S. Co-Chair, MG Peabody. He also welcomed IJC Commissioner Trépanier, IJC Engineering Advisors Mr. McAuley and Dr. Colisimo and others. 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 24 centimetres (9.4 inches) above the long-term average. It rose rapidly in March and April due to average precipitation. Below average precipitation in May stopped this rise with the lake reaching its seasonal peak in May. The lake slowly declined through the summer with the August level at 174.35 metres (572.01 feet), or 10 centimetres (3.9 inches) above average. The forecast is for Lake Erie's level to remain below average over the next six months. The Niagara River flow at Queenston was 215 cubic metres per second (7,590 cubic feet per second) higher for March through August compared to the same period last year.
  
3. A summary of the 2008-09 ice season was presented. It was noted that ice cover on Lake Erie increased during late February and peaked at about 97% in the first week of March. There was a steady decline throughout the remainder of the month. However, due to the amount of ice remaining on eastern Lake Erie, the Board, by letter dated March 25, informed the Commission that a delay in opening the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom beyond April 1 was anticipated.

The amount of ice cover diminished rapidly over the last days of March and the first few days of April. Preparations began for boom opening. An aerial observation was made on April 6 when it was shown that only about 100 square kilometres (40 square miles) of ice remained.

Boom opening operations began on April 6, with 3 spans opened that day and 5 more opened over the next two days. Removal was then suspended as there was substantial tension on spans and anchor cables from pressure exerted by the ice field. The remaining 14 boom spans were removed on April 13

It was agreed that comments on the draft 2008-09 Ice Boom Report be incorporated, the report finalized, printed, and forwarded to the International Joint Commission.

The Board, aware that a member of the public had recently expressed opposition to continued use of the ice boom, was in agreement that the boom continued to function as intended and that no changes to the Commission's Order of Approval were warranted. The secretaries were instructed to draft a letter advising the Commission of the Board's conclusion.

Mr. Harding reported that the New York Power Authority's search for an alternate ice boom storage site has been successful. Arrangements are nearing completion that will see the boom stored, beginning in the spring of 2010, at a site about 3 kilometres (2 miles) upstream on the bank of the Buffalo River

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 11 and 12 and April 4 as the result of actions to assist in ice management. Tolerances were also suspended on August 5, 7 and 12 through 16 as the result of police operations. The Board was

informed that the minimum amount of flow over the Falls was reported for 0800 on August 5 as being 135 m<sup>3</sup>/s (4,700 cfs) below the required Treaty daylight minimum during the police operation.

Three maintenance items to the control works were noted. Gate 2 has been out of service since April 28 as it undergoes a major overhaul (seals, cylinders, pistons). The Uninterruptable Power Supply, for such things as water level graphing, was recently replaced and now provides a 2 hour battery backup capability. As a result of inspections done in 2008, a plan and schedule has been developed to replace all oil lines in Gates 1 to 13. The 4 year program will start this Fall. Two will be done in 2009 and will continue at the rate of 2-3 per year until all 13 are completed. Gates 14-18 oil lines do not need replacing.

The Canadian Secretary informed the Board that a request to the Canadian Coast Guard to have that the warning sign for boaters at the Welland River replaced was unsuccessful. The item may be raised at the meeting with Governments in Ottawa in October.

Contacts named in the Board's Directive for regulation of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool are outdated. The Secretaries will write to the Power Entities to provide updated contact information.

5. The Board was informed that measurements were taken at the International Railway Bridge Section in May and a report will be completed by the spring of 2010. A schedule for upcoming measurement programs was submitted to the Board. Measurements are scheduled for 2010 at the Cableway and Welland Canal Sections and for 2012 at the American Falls Section. All measurements will be obtained using Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler technology.

The Board approved a revised Ashland Avenue Gauge Rating in 2008. A summary report on its development was forwarded to Governments and interested parties in May of 2009. Preparations are well underway for operations at Niagara to use the 2008 rating beginning January 1, 2010

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.

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 5418 metres (17,780 feet). That is a little over half of the entire tunnel length.
7. The International Niagara Board of Control's annual meeting with the public will be held on the evening of September 16, 2009 in St. Catharines, Ontario. 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, revision of the Ashland Avenue Gauge, and OPG's Niagara Tunnel Project will be presented. The Board is pleased that Commissioner Trépanier will be attending the session.
8. A draft of the Board's One Hundred Thirteenth 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 28, 2009 in the Commission's Ottawa boardroom.

9. The Board agreed its next meeting is scheduled for March 10 in Detroit.
10. There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

# INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

## Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions
3. Review of ice season activities and conditions, annual ice boom report and review of IJC Order of Approval.
4. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool operations and warning sign at Welland River
5. Review discharge measurements program
  - a. Welland Canal
  - b. Niagara River
  - c. Cableway Removal
6. Ashland Rating revision
7. OPG tunnel status
8. 2009 Meeting with the Public
9. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report
10. Other Business
11. Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance

ATTACHMENT