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**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL  
INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD****NEWSLETTER****4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2005**

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This newsletter provides a summary of the activities of the International Rainy Lake Board of Control (IRLBC) and the International Rainy River Water Pollution Board (IRRWPB) during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (October – December) of 2005.

***Basin Conditions and Regulation***

The fourth quarter of 2005 saw a recovery in the water supply for the Rainy-Namakan basin, from the seemingly entrenched dry conditions at the end of September to above-normal inflows by the end of December. Water levels, inflows and outflows for Namakan and Rainy lakes for 2005 are shown on the attached graphs.

The level of Namakan Lake was at 24% of the IJC rule curve band at the beginning of October, with inflow at lower quartile. With significant rainfall through October and November, inflow steadily increased to upper quartile by early December and, as a result, outflow was increased to control the rise of the lake within its rule curve band. Namakan Lake ended the year with its level at 78% of band, its inflow at 80 percentile and its outflow at 70 percentile. Rainfall in the entire Rainy-Namakan basin was 170% of normal for the quarter, the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rainfall for the quarter in 99 years of record. This above-normal rainfall resulted in the inflow for the quarter to Namakan Lake averaging 59 percentile, a significant improvement from the dry conditions of the previous quarter.

The level of Rainy Lake was only at 18% of its IJC rule curve band at the start of the quarter, with inflow at only lower decile and outflow at the IJC minimum of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/s. As inflow to the basin increased from the above-normal rain, outflow was increased to about 330 m<sup>3</sup>/s by the middle of November. Rainy Lake ended the year with its level at 59% of band, its inflow at 70 percentile and its outflow at 80 percentile. Average inflow to Rainy Lake through the quarter was 51 percentile.

***International Joint Commission Semi-Annual Meeting***

IRLBC and IRRWPB members and staff attended the fall semi-annual meeting of the IJC in Ottawa, Ontario on October 20. A draft of the Boards' "Fall 2005 Report" to the Commission was tabled. The Boards' presentation to the IJC addressed water quality monitoring programs in the basin and their findings, basin issues, lake regulation and board activities. Basin issues noted included the hydropower peaking issue on the Rainy River, the environmental monitoring program for the future assessment of the Rainy and Namakan rule curves adopted in 2000 (ongoing but financial concerns), and an emerging issue of potential future discharge from mine tailings within the basin. Board activities noted included the July basin meetings and tour, responses to IJC

requests regarding regulation concerns of the Border Lakes Association and the O'Shea fishery report on the Rainy River (see 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Newsletter) and the September tour of basin wastewater treatment facilities.

Following the Boards' presentation, Members and staff met with IJC staff to further discuss 2005 lake regulation and the response to the Border Lakes Association, and also the Board's recommendations on the Rainy River peaking issue.

### ***Rainy River Hydropower Peaking***

This issue has been reported upon in previous Newsletters. During the quarter, the Boards continued to discuss the issue with IJC staff and respond to their information requests. At the IJC October semi-annual meeting, the Boards recommended that the Commission confirm its authority and intent regarding peaking operations, initiate collaborative dialogue with the Companies regarding peaking during the spring spawning period, and pursue further studies if constraints on peaking in other than the spring season were to be considered. It was noted that studies would require significant resources (funds and personnel).

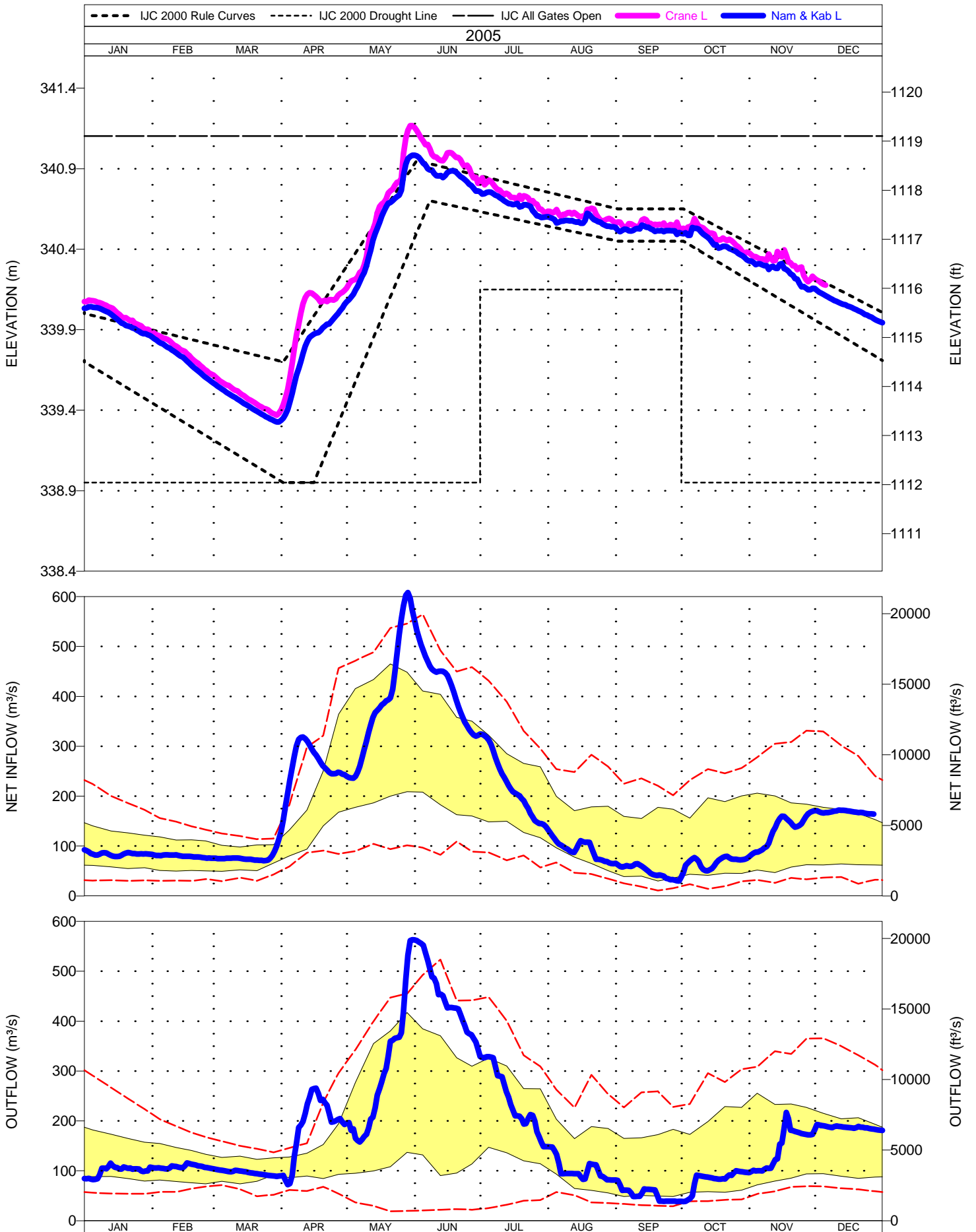
### ***Board Meeting Summary***

The Boards met once during the quarter, on October 20 in Ottawa in advance of their presentation to the IJC. The meeting focused on finalizing the Boards' presentation. No conference calls were held during the quarter.

*Questions or comments? Contact the Boards' Secretary:*

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# NAMAKAN LAKE



# RAINY LAKE

