

**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD****NEWSLETTER****4th Quarter 2004**

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 4th Quarter (October – December) of 2004.

Basin Conditions and Regulation

Water levels, inflows and outflows up to the end of December are shown on the attached graphs for Namakan and Rainy lakes. Namakan started the 4th Quarter at 31% of its IJC operating band; Rainy was at 55%. Inflow to both lakes rose strongly in late October and early November due to heavy rainfall in the basin. Total rainfall for October averaged 111 mm (4.4 in) for the Rainy-Namakan basin, the 6th highest for October since 1900. Much of this rainfall fell during a major storm on October 29-30 which produced 50 mm (2 in) of rain over the basin. To control the lake levels, outflows were increased by Abitibi and Boise. Sluices were opened on both lakes to manage the excess water; 5 out of 15 sluices on Rainy were fully opened, while on Namakan 6 out of 10 were fully opened and 1 more was partially opened. The level of Rainy was kept within its operating band, reaching 96% of its band on November 9th, but Namakan rose slightly above its operating band from November 1st through the 5th with a maximum deviation of 2 cm (1 in). Following the late October storm, both lakes experienced declining inflow and lake levels through the end of the year and outflows were reduced. On December 31, Rainy was at 70% of its operating band and it appeared that Namakan was at 90 % of its band. However, a water level gauge malfunction was discovered in early January 2005. As shown on the Namakan graph, the water level had actually been higher than the gauge reported and had risen a little above the upper rule curve by month-end.

IRLBC Membership Change

On October 12, 2004, Steven Richardson resigned his appointment to the International Rainy Lake Board of Control. Mr Richardson had served as a Canadian local member of the IRLBC since his appointment by the International Joint Commission (IJC) on December 9, 2003. At this time, the IJC has not named a successor to fill the vacant seat on the Board.

International Joint Commission Semi-Annual Meeting

IRLBC and IRRWPB members and staff attended the fall semi-annual meeting of the IJC in Ottawa, Ontario and gave a presentation to the Commission on October 21, 2004. Topics of discussion included a review of basin hydrologic conditions, results of 2003 water quality monitoring on the Rainy River, suggestions to improve the usability of the Boards' web sites and an update on hydropower peaking on the Rainy River. Although not within the mandate of these

Boards, Commissioners also expressed interest in Lake of the Woods water quality concerns that have been voiced recently by public groups in that basin.

It was noted that 2004 basin hydrologic conditions were in the normal range, as contrasted to the high water event of 2002 and the low water event of 2003. The peaking update included a presentation of the draft findings and recommendations of “The Committee on the Environmental Effects of Peaking on Rainy River”. A discussion of these draft findings was not included in the Boards’ Fall 2004 Report to the IJC, as the Peaking Committee had not yet released its final report. However, the Boards expect to submit a final report on their examination of hydropower peaking to the Commission at its April 2005 semi-annual meeting in Washington, D.C. and this report will include the findings and recommendations of the Peaking Committee.

For additional information, please see the Boards’ [Fall 2004 Report](#) to the IJC.

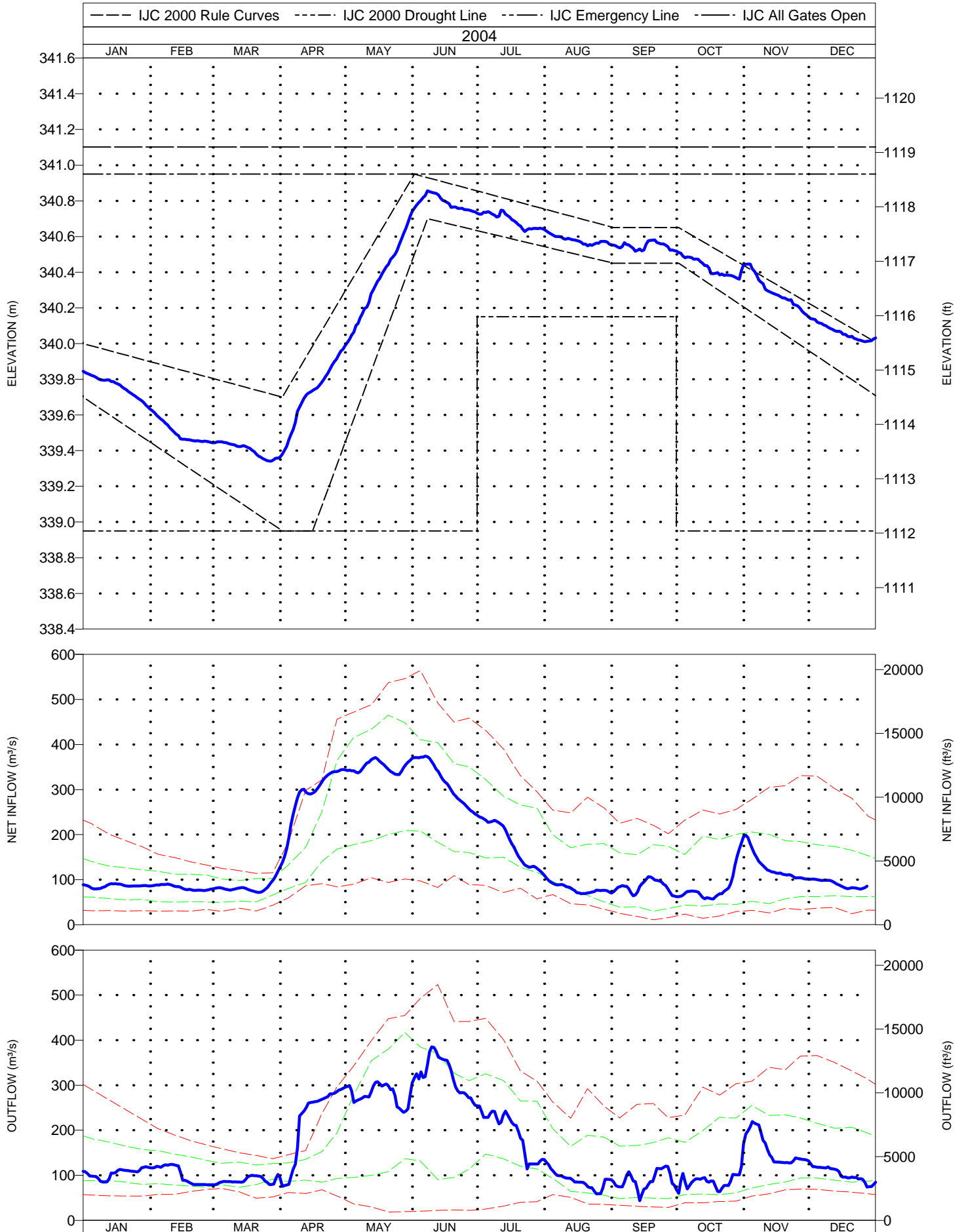
Board Meetings Summary

The IRLBC and IRRWPB held one joint conference call and one meeting during the 4th Quarter. A conference call was conducted on October 13, 2004. Key topics of discussion included work on the Boards’ Fall 2004 Report to the IJC, preparations for the Fall semi-annual meeting of the IJC in Ottawa, Rainy River hydropower peaking, improvements to the Boards’ web sites, preparation of the 3rd Quarter Newsletter and the resignation of Steven Richardson from the IRLBC. The Boards also met on October 21st in Ottawa to finalize their presentation for the fall semi-annual meeting of the International Joint Commission.

Questions or comments? Contact the Boards’ Secretary:

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NAMAKAN LAKE



RAINY LAKE

