



Rule Curves Review Study Strategy Available for Public Review and Comment

February 25, 2016. The International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board has finalized its <u>Study Strategy</u> that outlines and defines the study board's intended approach for conducting its review of the 2000 Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curves. Key stakeholder input from the meetings the Study Board held in September 2015 has been incorporated into this strategy and it has been peer reviewed and shared with the Rainy-Namakan Rule Curve Public Advisory Group and Resources Advisory Group. It is available for <u>public comment online</u>, from February 25 to March 21st 2016.

The Study Board will make scientifically-supported recommendations to the International Joint Commission in the spring of 2017 for modifying or retaining the 2000 rule curves after reviewing the wide range of hydrologic, hydraulic, cultural economic and environmental factors.

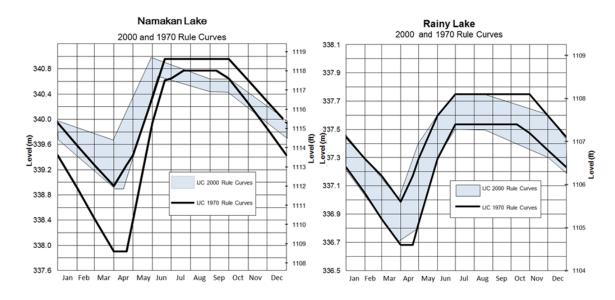
The public will also have an opportunity to comment in person to the Study Board on Tuesday March 8, 2016 when the Study Board will present an update on its work, and the Water Levels Committee of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board will review basin conditions and discuss spring water level regulation. The meeting will take place in International Falls in the Theatre of the Rainy River Community College from 6:30-8:00 pm located at 1501 US-71, International Falls, MN 56649.

The report provides a brief background on the Rainy River basin and the history of Rule Curve-based regulation there, the scope and aims of the Study Board in conducting its review, and the detailed methodology the Study Board will use.

The Study Board has established the following key objectives as necessary for achieving this goal:

- Evaluate the performance of the 2000 Rule Curves in comparison to the 1970 Rule Curves and the State of Nature considering a range of ecological, social, economic and environmental conditions that may be affected by water level regulation;
- Develop and evaluate additional regulation alternatives that reflects concerns of people in the study area and to compare the performance of these alternatives to that of regulation under the 1970 and 2000 Rule Curves; and
- 3. Evaluate all regulation alternatives for performance under a range of climate and water supply conditions.

1970 and 2000 Rule Curves for Namakan Lake and Rainy Lake



For more information on the evaluation, or to learn how to become involved, please see: http://ijc.org/en/RNLRCSB.

Contact:

Kelli Saunders Study Manager, Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board

Office: (807) 548-8002 Cell: (807) 465-4289