



TOWN OF HAMLIN
Supervisor's Office

n, New York

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INTL. JOINT COMMISSION
2008 JUN 18 P 10:39

June 13, 2008

Ms. Irene B. Brooks, United States Chair
Mr. Herb Gray, Canadian Chair
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

International Joint Commission

ACTION: JC, IB
INFORMATION: IB, AO, SS, RT, FB
FILE:

RE: Plan 2007 – Lake Level Control for Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River

Dear Chairwoman Brooks and Chairman Gray:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the International Joint Commission's (IJC) proposed Order of Approval and Plan 2007. It is clear that Plan 2007 is the better option to protect the South Shore riparian properties and the municipal infrastructures, which are our biggest concerns.

I had the privilege of attending the public hearing you conducted on June 11, 2008, in Greece, NY, and thank you for making that opportunity available to hear the comments and opinions of our residents. The well-voiced appeals I heard from the proponents of Plan 2007 – including elected officials, subject matter experts, emergency responders and private property owners – confirmed to me that with certain enhancements, Plan 2007 is far and away a better option than Plan B+ for protecting our residents and infrastructure. I was particularly impressed with the position of our County Executive Maggie Brooks, contained in her letter of June 11, 2008 and orally presented by her Deputy Director of Environmental Services, Mr. Michael Garland.

The Town of Hamlin is a microcosm of Monroe County. Ten percent of our 3,434 parcels are along the shoreline. This represents over \$17,000,000 of property valuation, or more than ten percent of our Town's total assessed value. Any loss of property would have drastic economic results for both our landowners and our tax base. It is noted that all the parcels along the shoreline in the Town of Hamlin are on septic systems. Obviously, high water events could have a devastating effect on the Lake's environment, in direct conflict with one of the important purposes of the Plan – to increase environmental benefits.

I also share the County Executive's concern regarding funding for mitigation associated with proposed Plan B+. It is folly to believe that local government would be able to

support the extensive mitigation necessary to protect properties at the current threat level not to mention the high water levels anticipated under that plan. It is our observation that neither the State nor Federal governments are any better able to provide this type of funding in today's economic environment.

In summary, the County Executive's recommendations to enhance Plan 2007 are extremely important for the Plan to best protect our residents and are worth reiterating:

- Maintain the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control current level of control over deviations.
- Retain the following criteria from the existing Order of Approval: Criterion (g), Criterion (h) and Criterion (k).
- Do not advance Plan B+ until/unless additional analysis confirms that the costs and impacts of mitigation outweigh the improvements to the environment and that complete funding is secured.

Again, I appreciate your efforts to obtain and balance the comments and interests of all who will be affected by your difficult decision.

Sincerely,



Dennis Roach
Town Supervisor

Copy to:

Hon. Hillary R. Clinton, United States Senate
Hon. Charles E. Schumer, United States Senate
Hon. Louise M. Slaughter, 28th Congressional District
Hon. David A. Paterson, Governor
Hon. George D. Maziarz, 62nd Senatorial District
Hon. Steve Hawley, 139th Assembly District
Hon. Maggie Brooks, Monroe County Executive
Cheryl Stevens, Shore Acres Neighbors Steering Committee