

**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD****NEWSLETTER****1st 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 1st Quarter (January – March) of 2004.

Basin Conditions

Spring runoff began at the end of March, slightly earlier than normal. Based on hydrologic data, an average spring runoff was anticipated. Inflows to Rainy and Namakan Lakes were normal through the 1st Quarter. From January 1 to March 31, 2004, precipitation over the Rainy-Namakan basin ranked in the 82nd percentile (the 6th highest since 1970). Additionally, the annual snow survey, conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, showed slightly above average snow depths with average water content.

As always, precipitation in May and June will play a key role in refill of the lakes.

Regulation

Water levels for both Rainy and Namakan Lakes were within their respective operating bands through the 1st Quarter of the year, as shown on the attached graphs.

In January, Boise Cascade proposed a water management plan for a February 15 – March 15 shutdown of the International Falls powerhouse to accommodate the replacement of obsolete electrical switchgear.

The plan, coordinated with Abitibi-Consolidated, included drawing Namakan and Rainy Lake levels down to the lower 25 percent of their operating bands prior to the work period, and then managing levels to no more than 75 percent of the bands as outflows were reduced during the work. The IRLBC found this plan to be in compliance with the January 2001 Consolidated Order. After consulting area resource managers, the IRLBC approved the water management plan.

During the work period, the lake levels were managed in accordance with the approved plan and the work was completed ahead of schedule.

International Water Quality Forum

In February, the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association hosted an International Water Quality Forum on the state of water quality and aquatic research in Lake of

the Woods. Over fifty Canadian and American water quality experts assembled in Kenora to collaborate and focus their future research activities to protect water quality in the Lake of the Woods. John Merriman (Cdn Co-Chair, IRRWPB) and Rick Walden (Cdn Engineering Advisor, IRLBC) were among the forum participants.

More details on this conference are provided in the May edition of the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners [Area News](#).

Board Meetings Summary

The IRLBC and IRRWPB held two joint conference calls during the 1st Quarter. The first conference call was conducted on January 26, 2004. During this meeting, the Boards received an update on the activities of the Peaking Work Group and discussed the water management plan proposed by Boise Cascade to accommodate improvements to their powerhouse. After the discussion, the IRLBC approved Boise's water management plan. The Boards also discussed the preparation of the Spring Report to the IJC, the Boards' appearance before the IJC at the semi-annual meeting to be held in April, the 2004 Joint Board Work Plan, and the IJC's request to investigate the establishment of a local advisory committee. On February 27, 2004 the Boards held a second conference call to finalize the Spring Report to the IJC and discuss the presentation for the IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

Upcoming IRLBC/IRRWPB Activities

The 2004 IRLBC and IRRWPB Joint Annual Public Meetings will be held in Fort Frances and Baudette during the week of August 23rd. Specific dates, times, and locations will be provided in the next IRLBC/IRRWPB Newsletter. The meetings will include a brief presentation by Board Members and a question and answer period.

Agency Links

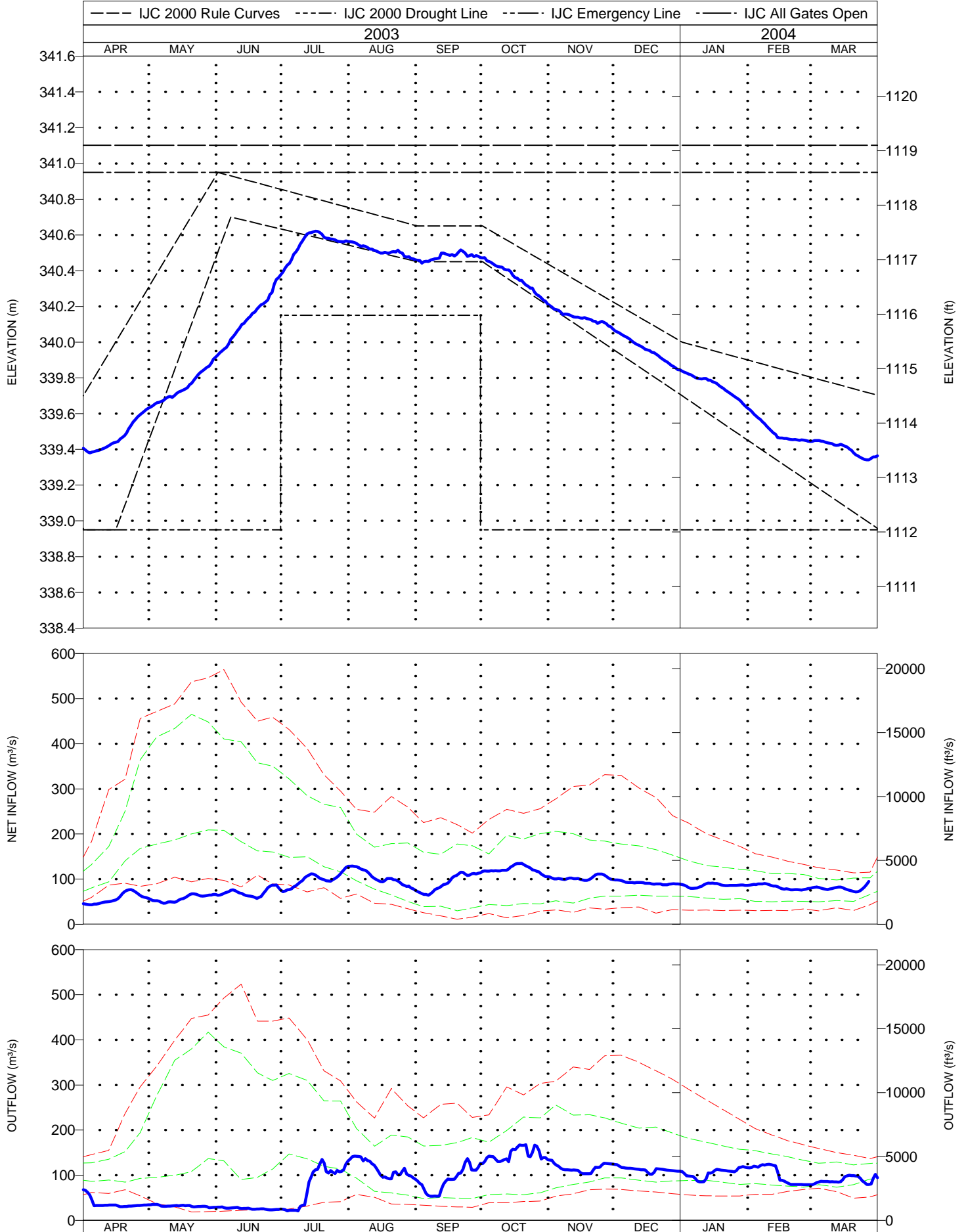
Additional basin data and information pertaining to the IRLBC and IRRWPB can be found at the following websites.

[International](#) Joint Commission
Lake of the [Woods](#) Control Board
US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District, [Water](#) Control Center

The Boards will be using the Newsletter as a mechanism to keep the public informed. If you have comments or questions, please contact the Boards' Secretary:

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NAMAKAN LAKE



RAINY LAKE

