

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Summary of Conference Call of 23 July 2015

Called to discuss Payback Strategy for deviations required to assist salvage operations

The conference call began at 2:00 p.m. (ET), chaired by Mr. Philippe Morel, Canadian Chair, with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
BG R. Kaiser, Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Dr. F. Sciremammano		Mr. P. Morel, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC K. Jansen Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	Associates	
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. J. Drolet Ms. C. Fisher Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. K. McCune		Ms. M. Beaumont Mr. D. Ferko Mr. M. Gagnon Ms. S. Grady Mr. Brent Morton Mr. S. Villeneuve

1 Welcome and introductions

Co-Chair Morel opened the meeting by asking for a roll-call.

2 Current Status of Salvage Operations

After two tugs sank in the North Channel of the St. Lawrence River just downstream of the international bridge near Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, while positioning a work barge, salvage operators requested lower outflows from the Moses-Saunders Power Dam to reduce high current velocities in the vicinity of the vessels, and accommodate safety concerns by providing more manageable conditions for critical components of the salvage operations. The salvage operators now have delayed the salvage operations which would require daytime periods of reduced flows and Iroquois Dam gate operations to reduce the risk of high water on Lake St. Lawrence, because of a setback to the salvage plan, until August. Considering the new facts, the Board did not discuss a request to delay flow reductions to accommodate The Bassmaster's Elite bass fishing tournament which is to be held in Waddington, NY, from 30 July-2 August 2015.

The Canadian Regulation representative received a call from the salvage operators on the morning of Thursday, 23 July 2015, who stated they broke part of the rigging (cable) connected to the Tug LCM-131, and this situation would setback their salvage efforts by at least two days. Although the salvage crews would still require the reduced flows starting Sunday, 26 July 2015, the salvage operators indicated that they would agree to delay their salvage efforts requiring a flow decrease for two weeks, until after the August 3rd weekend. Lowering of Iroquois Dam gates were initiated early the morning of Thursday, 23 July, however, at approximately 11am (EDT) the gates were directed to be raised. Plan flow of 8400 m³/s would be run on Friday, 24 July, and Plan flows of 8500 m³/s will be followed during the next week ending 31 July 2015.

3 Required Under-Discharges

Due to a Canadian holiday 3 August, the likely start date of any flow deviations would begin 5 August 2015. Should all go according to current plan, and supplies to Lake Ontario be close to average, the gates at Iroquois Dam will be lowered (dipped) the day before, 4 August 2015. Under discharges will be 6800 m³/s for 14 hours a day from 0600 hrs to 2000 hrs, with a maximum hourly change of +/- 570 m³/s, to maintain Plan flow during the rest of the day. The maximum duration of the deviations will be 14 days (from 5 to 18 August), with a maximum storage of 5 cm on Lake Ontario (~1610 m³/s-weeks). The

salvage operators believe that with 14 hours/day of flow at 6800 m³/s, the salvage operation requiring reduced outflow will be finished within seven days, or with 3.5 cm stored on the lake, 1130 m³/s-weeks assuming Plan flow continues at about 8500 m³/s.

4 Payback Considerations

Three primary factors are being considered with regard to over-discharges, required to pay back the daily under-discharges for the salvage operations:

1. Hydro-Quebec Beauharnois plant spills at flows above 8200 m³/s.
2. New York Power Authority has a scheduled bank outage from 7-27 September 2015 (inclusive).
3. Spills at the Long Sault spillway may have harmful environmental impacts downstream, as well as reducing economic benefits of electrical production.

5 Regulation Recommendations

The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended that:

- the outflows continue to follow Plan 1958-D, until 5 August 2015, or when reduced flows are required by salvage operations.
- Outflows be reduced to 6800 m³/s for 14 hours a day, for a maximum of 14 days, storing a maximum of 5 cm relative to Plan 1958-D, on Lake Ontario.
- The water stored on Lake Ontario be released as quickly as possible, when Plan flows are less than 8200 m³/s, or after 28 September 2015, so as to remove all stored water prior to November 2015.
- The Board and associates continue to closely monitor the situation. If necessary, further conference calls may be scheduled.

The Board agreed to the recommendations, noting that some riparian interests are already concerned over high water levels on Lake Ontario, and that November often brings high winds and stormy weather to the south shore of Lake Ontario. Therefore, the Board agreed to revisit the payback considerations and resulting strategy should conditions prove unusually wet, which may warrant removal of the stored water more quickly. The Board's next meeting will be Wednesday, 24 September 2015, in Montreal where the strategy may be amended, if required.

6 Communications Outreach

The US Regulation Representative will keep US stakeholders involved in the bass

tournament informed of any flow reductions and gate operations, while the US Chair's office will inform higher levels of the US government. The Alternate Canadian Regulation Representative will provide a summary of the deviation recommendation to the Board and associates. The Board will distribute its media release shortly before the start of any deviations.

7 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.