

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY REGULATION OF THE LEVEL OF RAINY LAKE
AND OF OTHER BOUNDARY WATERS IN THE RAINY LAKE WATERSHED

TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER

March 18, 2016

To the Consolidated Order Prescribing the Method of Regulating the Levels of Boundary Waters dated January 18, 2001

The Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board recommended on March 17, 2016 that the Commission issue a temporary Supplementary Order to allow for an early, partial refill of Rainy Lake and Namakan Reservoir to begin before April 1, 2016. Recent weather conditions have brought warmer than usual weather and above-normal rainfall, possibly caused or exacerbated by the strong El Nino winter, resulting in an early freshet. Inflows are currently rising sharply in several tributaries to Rainy Lake and the Namakan chain of lakes.

Without a Supplementary Order, the Companies will likely need to maximize outflow from these lakes in March in an attempt to stay within the rule curves prescribed by the Consolidated Order dated January 18, 2001. If the April-May period proves very dry, it may not be possible to refill the lakes to preferred levels by the beginning of tourist season in May. Continued dry weather in the summer could result in low levels for the entire season.

The Board recognizes that permitting higher levels in both Rainy Lake and the Namakan chain of lakes in the present reduces storage capacity for a short period that could be used to store above-normal inflows in the event of wet conditions later in the spring of 2016. With that said, the Board notes that with higher lake levels, the outflow capacity of both lakes increases, so dam owners would be able to pass water at a greater rate if acting aggressively in response to wet conditions later in the spring, which mitigates the risk posed by storing additional water in the present.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS AND DIRECTS THAT

1. Notwithstanding the terms of the Commission's Consolidated Order dated January 18, 2001, the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board is authorized, at its discretion, to direct the Companies to target:
 - For Rainy Lake, a lake level no higher than 337.18 m (1106.23 ft) until April 15, 2016;
 - For Namakan Reservoir, a lake level no higher than 340.0 m (1115.49 ft) until April 15, 2016.

2. After April 15, 2016 the Board and Companies are to resume compliance with the terms of the Commission's Consolidated Order dated January 18, 2001.

Dated the 18th of March, 2016 and in effect through 15th of April, 2016,

By the Commission



Gordon W. Walker



Lana B. Pollack



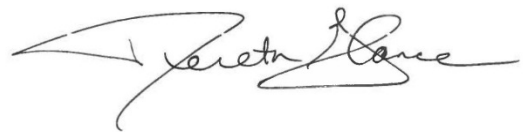
Benoit Bouchard



Richard M. Moy



Richard A. Morgan



Dereth B. Glance