

**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD**

NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter 2005

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 2nd Quarter (April – June) of 2005.

Basin Conditions and Regulation

Water levels, inflows and outflows up to the end of June 2005 are shown on the attached graphs for Namakan and Rainy lakes. Both lakes were near the middle of their respective IJC rule curve bands at the beginning of April. Inflows peaked at over 90 percentile for both lakes in early April, but by the end of the month were back to near normal and were declining quickly. For Rainy Lake, significant outflow reductions were needed to keep the lake from declining.

Above normal May rainfall led to a second, stronger, spring inflow peak for both lakes. Inflows rose to above 95 percentile for 3 days into Namakan Lake and for 7 days into Rainy Lake. The Companies responded quickly to open sluices in the dams, but with inflows exceeding outflow capacity, lake levels rose rapidly and exceeded the upper rule curves. Namakan Lake level rose above its upper IJC rule curve from May 26 to June 3, peaking at 340.98 m (1,118.7 ft) on May 30-31. This peak level was a rank 52 over the past 93 years of record and was 1.2 m (4 ft) below the peak level reached in 1950. Namakan Lake did not reach its All-Gates-Open requirement level (341.1 m or 1,119.1 ft). The maximum deviation above the upper rule curve was 9 cm (3 in) but the maximum lake level was only 3 cm (1 in) above the maximum rule curve level. The sluices at Kettle Falls were wide open from May 29 to June 4. The level of Crane Lake rises significantly higher than the level of Namakan and Kabetogama lakes during periods of high inflows and Crane Lake peaked at 341.17 m (1,119.3 ft) on May 29-30.

The water level situation was more severe on Rainy Lake. Its level peaked on June 16 at 337.95 m (1,108.8 ft). This peak level was a rank 27 over the past 94 years of record and was 1.3 m (4 ft) below the peak level reached in 1950. The level was above the upper rule curve for 41 days from May 25 until July 4 and was above the all-gates-open level defined by the IJC for 17 days from June 5-21. The sluices at the Fort Frances / International Falls dam were fully open from May 31 to June 23. The maximum deviation above the upper rule curve was 30 cm (12 in), while

***2005 IRLBC and IRRWPB
Joint Annual Public Meetings***

July 21, 2005

7:00 pm

**Rainy River Community College Theatre
International Falls, Minnesota**

July 22, 2005

10:00 am

**Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Visitors Centre
Stratton, Ontario**

the deviation above the maximum rule curve level was 20 cm (8 in). The deviation above the all-gates-open level was 5 cm (2 in).

By the end of June, inflows had declined to 70 percentile for Namakan Lake and to 80 percentile for Rainy Lake. Namakan Lake levels were near mid-band while Rainy Lake was still 4 cm (1.5 in) above its IJC upper rule curve at the end of the quarter. Rainfall for the entire quarter was 92 percentile for the Rainy-Namakan basin. Average inflow for the quarter was 82 percentile to Namakan Lake and 95 percentile to Rainy Lake.

IRRWPB and IRLBC Membership Changes

Nolan Baratono of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) was appointed by the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission (IJC) to the IRRWPB, effective April 16, 2005, upon the retirement of Kathy Svanda. Mr. Baratono succeeds Ms. Svanda, as the IRRWPB state/local representative for the United States. Mr. Baratono presently serves as the MPCA's Rainy River Basin Coordinator and resides in International Falls, MN. Mr. Baratono brings an extensive background in water quality monitoring and water resources management to the Board.

Peter Williams was appointed by the Canadian Section of the IJC to the IRLBC, effective May 5, 2005 for a term of three years. Mr. Williams succeeds Steve Richardson as the IRLBC local representative for Canada. Mr. Williams operated a resort facility near Fort Frances for many years, but is now retired and resides in Thunder Bay. He brings to the Board an extensive knowledge and practical experience regarding Rainy-Namakan basin water resources issues and geography.

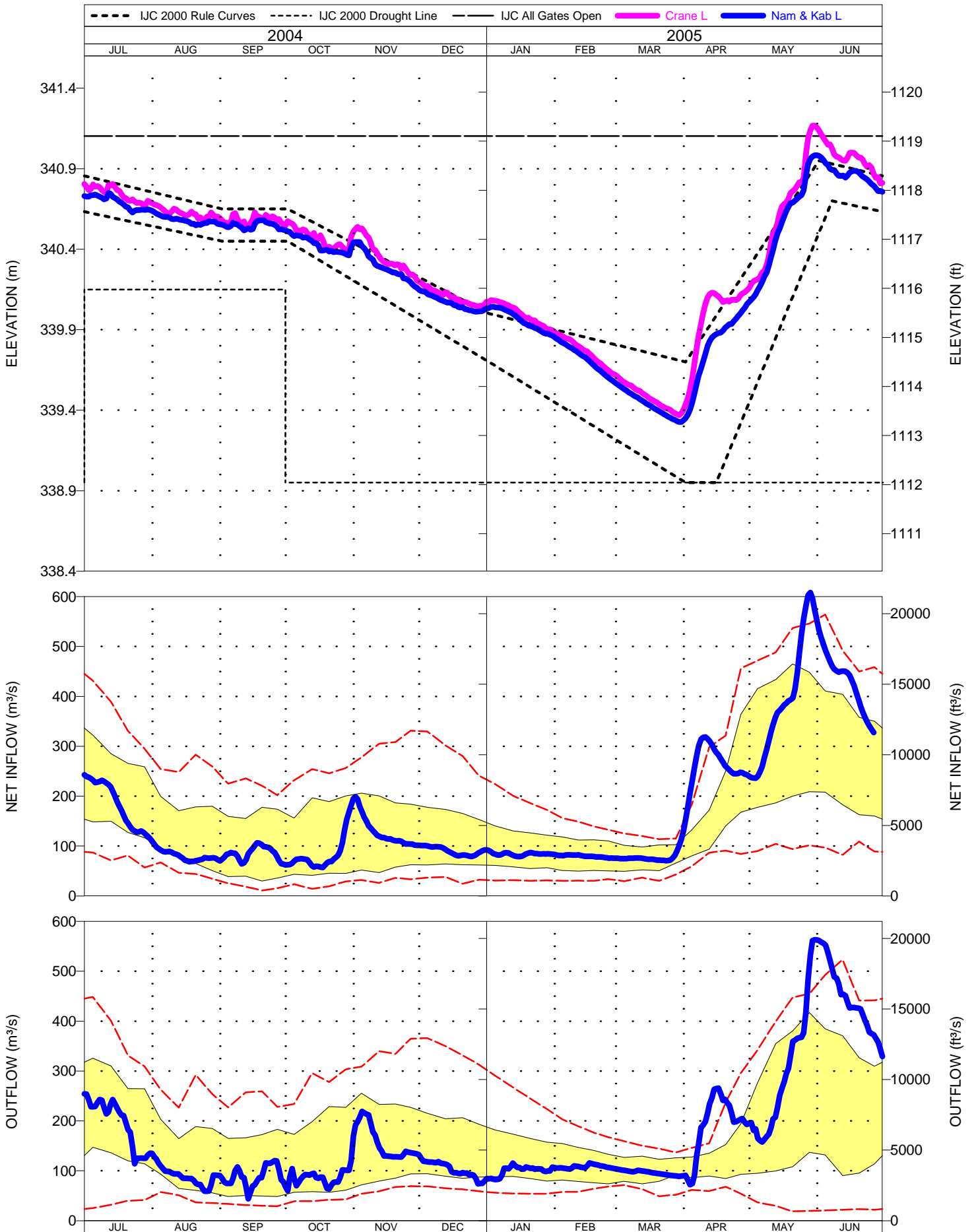
International Joint Commission Semi-Annual Meeting

IRLBC and IRRWPB members and staff attended the spring semi-annual meeting of the IJC in Washington, D.C. on April 13. The boards presented their "Spring 2005 Report" to the Commission along with an update on basin hydrologic conditions. It was noted that 2004 basin hydrologic conditions were in the normal range, as contrasted to the high water event of 2002 and the low water event of 2003. Other topics of discussion included increased funding requirements of the boards in working in a more integrated manner and likely future funding needs in support of the IJC Watersheds Initiative. The primary topic of discussion centered on a presentation of the Boards' examination of hydropower peaking operations on the Rainy River and its review of the "Recommendation Report From The Committee On The Environmental Effects Of Peaking On Rainy River," dated January 26, 2005. A detailed discussion of the Boards' findings, conclusions and recommendations can be found in the Boards' "Spring 2005 Report" to the IJC, which is posted on the IRLBC and IRRWPB web sites at www.ijc.org.

Questions or comments? Contact the Boards' Secretary:

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NAMAKAN LAKE



RAINY LAKE

