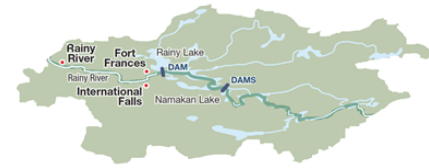




International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board



Rule Curve Methodology Meetings Add Value

[October 8, 2015] The International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board (Study Board) met September 29-30 in International Falls MN and Fort Frances ON to discuss the methodology to be used for their work, with local stakeholder organizations and government agencies.

During the two days of meetings, the Study Board heard many suggestions for potential inclusion in the evaluation, including:

- targeting the lower 25 percent of the 2000 Rule Curve band on Rainy Lake in the spring;
- coordinating Rainy Lake and Namakan Lake outflows;
- determining Rule Curve triggers for altering flow by using basin conditions such as the volume of snowpack, ice-out timing, regional forecasting or spawning locations and timing, rather than a specific calendar date;
- allowing the Rule Curve to take increased natural variability into account;
- analyses of the Ranier Rapids pinch point at the railway bridge; and
- effects of the Rule Curve on docks.

In all, the Study Board identified over 20 suggestions from discussions at the meetings related to the methodology of the evaluation.

The evaluation terms of reference from the International Joint Commission (IJC) directs the Study Board to look at:

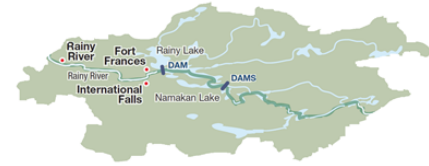
- whether the 2000 Rule Curves worked as expected;
- whether they are better than the 1970 Rule Curves and why;
- what benefits and/or negative impacts may have resulted from the 2000 Rule Curves relative to likely impacts of the 1970 Rule Curves;
- what benefits and negative impacts would result from a “state of nature” operating plan;
- what benefits and negative impacts would result from a few alternative operating policies or plans; and
- what benefits and negative impacts would result from changed climate.

The Study Board will also examine climate scenarios and regulation alternatives, such as:

- testing various climatic scenarios (drought, earlier snow melt, etc.)
- at least the following three regulation alternatives:
 - operating according to state of nature releases;



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- modified 2000 Rule Curves based on evaluation; and
- 2000 Rule Curves with target elevations shifted by current data (soil moisture, temperature, snow pack, etc.)
- a Shared Vision Model to run approximately 18 scenarios composed of:
 - six operating plans (1970, 2000, State of Nature, three regulation alternatives); and
 - three water supply sets (historical, extreme, climate change).

The Study Board will submit its recommended methodology to the IJC on November 2, 2015, and the IJC will make that public once it has finalized its review.

For more information on the evaluation, or to learn how to become involved, please see:
http://ijc.org/en/_RNLRCSB

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