

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

May 14, 2022

To the Official Compilation Order Prescribing the Method of Regulating the Levels of Boundary Waters
dated September 13, 2018

WHEREAS

Due to extremely high precipitation throughout the spring of 2022, water levels on both Rainy and Namakan Lakes have risen rapidly and have exceeded their respective all gates open levels set out in the IJC's September 13, 2018 Order, and hydrologic conditions remain uncertain;

Levels in Rainy River, as a result of the conditions described above, are extremely high and may continue to rise in the weeks to come, potentially threatening serious flooding;

Maximizing Rainy and Namakan Lake outflows under these circumstances may exacerbate downstream flooding on Rainy River;

The Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board wrote the IJC on May 6, 2022, noting: "both Rainy and Namakan Lakes have now exceeded their respective rule curves. Current forecasts are that Rainy Lake will exceed the all gates open level in the coming days and Namakan Lake will follow early next week. The control structure at Namakan Lake has been fully open since April 26th and the control at Rainy Lake has been gradually opened as the lake level has been rising to maximize outflow, with an all gates open condition being achieved as of yesterday, May 5th. To be clear to the Commission, this is a significant flood event that is occurring, conditions and forecasts indicate a possibility of flows and water levels equal to or exceeding conditions experienced during the last major flood event in 2014," and asked that the IJC issue a Temporary Supplementary Order "to allow for maximum flexibility to direct operations outside of the rule curves, should the need arise, such as in the case of an identified risk to public safety downstream."

The WLC and IJC expect minimal adverse impacts on other interests in the system as a result of allowing the WLC further discretion to manage outflows in order to balance upstream and downstream flooding in the system; and

In response to the conditions outlined above and in order to minimize, to the extent practical, upstream and downstream flooding, the IJC authorizes the WLC to target, as needed, levels outside the rule curves for Rainy and Namakan Lakes and manage outflows in light of flooding and high water levels throughout the system.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS AND DIRECTS THAT

1. Paragraph 3 of the Official Compilation Order dated September 13, 2018 is modified as follows:
 3. Notwithstanding Paragraphs numbered 1 and 2 of this Order, if extremely high or low inflows to Namakan Lake or Rainy Lake are anticipated, the Water Levels Committee ~~after obtaining the approval of the Commission~~ may authorize the levels of Namakan Lake and/or Rainy Lake to be raised temporarily to greater than the maximum or lowered

temporarily to less than the minimum elevations respectively prescribed in Paragraphs numbered 1(a) and 2(a) of this Order, **and may authorize gate settings other than all gates open when the elevations in 1(b) and 2(c) are met.**

2. On July 1, 2022, the WLC is to resume compliance with the terms of the Commission's Official Compilation Order, dated September 13, 2018.

Signed on May 14, 2022, by the International Joint Commission.



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Rob Sisson



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