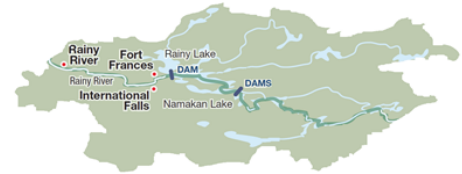




International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board



Invitation to Attend Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Evaluation Meetings – Phase One

We invite your participation in *Phase One: Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Evaluation Study*. The focus of this initial phase is to explain to stakeholders the Directive and Terms of Reference provided by the International Joint Commission (IJC) to the Study Board and to solicit feedback on the evaluation approach.

The objective of this Rule Curves Evaluation Study is to provide the IJC with scientifically supported recommendations for the modification or retention of the 2000 Rainy and Namakan lakes rule curves, considering the extensive research that has been done since 2009 and prior on the hydrologic, hydraulic, cultural, economic and environmental risk factors. The geographic scope of this study comprises Rainy Lake and the Namakan Chain of lakes, the connecting channels and the Rainy River downstream of Rainy Lake to Lake of the Woods, and the riparian areas adjacent to these water bodies. The project study scope includes the evaluation of the 2000 rule curves for Rainy and Namakan lakes and the identification of performance differences between the 1970 rule curves and estimated state-of-nature releases from those lakes.

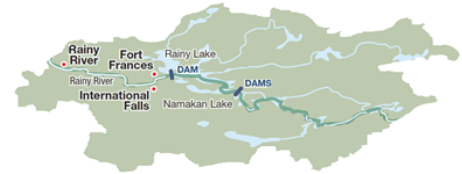
The Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Evaluation Study Board (http://ijc.org/en/_RNLRCSB) has been established to carry out this review and its directives from the IJC require it to develop a proposed methodology for evaluating the rule curves. The Study Board feels very strongly that key stakeholders and interested individuals and organizations within the basin should be given the opportunity to provide comment on this Directive before it develops the evaluation approach. Your participation in this first phase is welcome however, please note that if your interest lies more in the results of the evaluation rather than its execution, there will be several more opportunities to participate in subsequent phases of the study.

To review the Directive and Terms of Reference for this study, please link to these documents at http://ijc.org/en/_RNLRCSB. We have also attached them to this email.

In order to accommodate as many interested parties as possible, please consider the options shown on the following page for participation in Phase One:



International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board



Focus Group	Format of Meeting	Date and Time	Location
Open to everyone	Webex (internet-based presentation with toll free conference call)	Friday, Sept. 25, 2015 10:00 am -12:00 pm (central)	Online/teleconference – details will be forwarded to those who sign up
Government (local, provincial, state, federal)	In-person	Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 9:00-11:00 am	AmericInn, 1500 US-71, International Falls, MN
Non-Government (e.g. Tourist Operators, Environmental Groups, Lake Associations, Dam Operators)	In-person	Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 1:00 – 3:00 pm	AmericInn, 1500 US-71, International Falls, MN
Non-Government (e.g. Tourist Operators, Environmental Groups, Lake Associations, Dam Operators)	In-person	Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 5:00 – 7:00 pm	AmericInn, 1500 US-71, International Falls, MN
Government (local, provincial, state, federal)	In-person	Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015 9:00-11:00 am	Fort Frances Public Library – Shaw Community Hub – 601 Reid Ave., Fort Frances, ON
Non-Government (e.g. Tourist Operators, Environmental Groups, Lake Associations, Dam Operators)	In-person	Wednesday, Sept 30, 2015 1:00-3:00 pm	Fort Frances Public Library – Shaw Community Hub – 601 Reid Ave., Fort Frances, ON
Non-Government (e.g. Tourist Operators, Environmental Groups, Lake Associations, Dam Operators)	In-person	Wednesday, Sept 30, 2015 5:00-7:00 pm	Fort Frances Public Library – Shaw Community Hub – 601 Reid Ave., Fort Frances, ON

Your expertise and knowledge will help us to develop an evaluation methodology that is inclusive and comprehensive and we look forward to hearing from you.

We would appreciate an RSVP on your preference for participation by Wednesday, Sept. 23 to the Study Manager, Kelli Saunders at saundersk@ottawa.ijc.org.

Sincerely,

Matt DeWolfe, Canadian Co-Chair Scott Jutila, U.S. Co-Chair Kelli Saunders, Study Manager

International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board