



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
North Central Division

GREAT LAKES LEVELS

UPDATE, NO. 13 4 AUGUST 1986

We have received helpful comments from readers of this Update. There was an omission in the last issue. We should have stated that Lake Erie also achieved its all-time record high in June at 573.70 feet. In addition, we would like to clarify a point that has been raised. The term "record high monthly levels" is used in reference to the month being reported only (currently July). The term "all-time record high" means that the level is higher than any monthly level throughout the year. In both cases, the period of record is from 1900 to the present. Prior to 1900, the levels record is not compatible with current conditions. The reasons are: the channels of the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers were different from those of today and, also, the gage recording instruments and techniques were, in many cases, cruder and therefore, less accurate.

The upper Great Lakes basin again received more than average rainfall during the month of July. Consequently, with the lakes still brimming with waters accumulated during the past year, new record high monthly levels for July were set on Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie. These are also all-time highs for the 1900 - present period of record on Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair. For St. Clair, this is the eleventh straight month that a record high has been set and for Lakes Michigan-Huron, it is the tenth. The Lake Erie level has been less than its record monthly high only once, in April, since October 1985. While Lake Superior did not set a new record for July, it remains extremely high with a 31 July level of 601.9 feet. The Lake Ontario basin received less than average precipitation during July. The attached bulletin shows that all the Great Lakes except Lake Ontario are predicted to remain extremely high through the end of January 1987. Riparian property owners should be alert to take necessary precautions.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is continuing to direct the outflows for the two Great Lakes that are regulated. Lake Superior is at its Regulation Plan 1977 outflow setting. Lake Ontario is being regulated under Criterion (k) of the Commission's Orders of Approval, which requires that it be regulated so as to provide all possible relief to riparians upstream and downstream of the St. Lawrence River control structures. The outflows remained greater than Plan 1958-D flows throughout the month. Plan 1958-D is the operating plan used under normal conditions. The overdischarge in July reduced the Lake Ontario level by another 0.3 foot below what would have occurred using the plan flows. The total reduction below plan levels is now about 2.03 feet. Without the overdischarges to date, the Lake Ontario level would now be in excess of the upper limit and, in fact, above the all-time record high level of 248.06 feet, set in June 1952. The St. Lawrence River flow is greater than normal for this time of year. Shipping has been warned of the high velocities and strong crosscurrents in the river.

The Corps of Engineers has authority under Public Law 84-99 to carry out preventive work prior to a flood threat to life and improved property. This program, known as Advance Measures, is applicable to areas threatened with inundation. There is no similar authority applicable to shore erosion threats. In Michigan, construction of five approved Advance Measures projects is now substantially complete; Luna Pier, Estral Beach, Detroit Beach in Frenchtown township, and Labo Island and Milleman in Brownstown township. A sixth project, the Grodi Road area in Erie Township, is under construction. A seventh project, the Village of Quanicassee in Tuscola County, was recently approved and is being finalized for construction. Investigations continue as requests are received for consideration of new and previously denied projects. In Ohio, six projects have been approved. Only the Bayview project is completed. The Eastlake and Oregon projects are being finalized for construction. The Reno Beach/Howard Farms, Whites Landing, and Crystal Rock projects are pending resolution of local sponsorship.

One other project, Wightmans Grove, is under construction. All other potential projects in both states either are ineligible or have been declined by the communities. Investigation of potential Advance Measures continues in New York on Lakes Erie and Ontario as the result of a request from the Governor. Investigation of potential projects on the north side of Chicago in Illinois continues. In Wisconsin, the Governor requested assistance and to date one project was investigated and denied.

The Corps is also authorized to assist local communities in responding to actual flooding situations. This includes providing technical assistance, supplies and equipment and contracting, as necessary, to supplement maximum state and local efforts. Requests for assistance should be directed through local and state disaster assistance agencies.

For Great Lakes basin technical assistance or information, please contact one of the following Corps of Engineers District Offices:

For New York, Penn. and Ohio Colonel Daniel R. Clark Commander, Buffalo District 1776 Niagara Street Buffalo, NY 14207-3199 (716) 876-5454 - Ext. 2201	For Mich., Minn. and Wisc. Colonel Robert F. Harris Commander, Detroit District Post Office Box 1027 Detroit, MI 48231-1027 (313) 226-6440 or 226-6441	For Ill. and Indiana Lieutenant Col. Frank R. Finch Commander, Chicago District 219 South Dearborn (6th Floor) Chicago, IL 60604-1797 (312) 353-6400
---	---	---

The "Help Yourself" brochure which contains information on shoreland damage causes and some protective measures is available from the District Offices listed above or from this office: North Central Division, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1592, Telephone: (312) 353-6364

The Corps is additionally charged with regulating work and construction of structures in the waters of the United States. Any work done along the Great Lakes shoreline requires a Corps permit as well as a State permit. There are numerous types of Corps authorizations which cover shore protection work. Shortened procedures for issuing the required authorizations as quickly as possible have been developed. Applicants for permits in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio should contact the Buffalo District by Phone Number (716) 876-5454 Ext. 2315; in Michigan and Indiana, the Detroit District by Phone Number (313) 226-2218; in Illinois, the Chicago District by Phone Number (312) 353-6428; and in Wisconsin and Minnesota, contact the St. Paul District by Phone Number (612) 725-5819.

Near shore wave warnings are provided by various National Weather Service Offices for certain portions of the Great Lakes. Information can normally be heard on the National Weather Service's local weather radio broadcasts noted below:

<u>LAKE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>VHF/FM FREQ.</u>	<u>LAKE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>VHF/FM FREQ.</u>
Superior	Duluth, MN	162.550 MHz	Huron	Alpena, MI	162.550 MHz
Superior	Houghton, MI	162.400 MHz	St. Clair	Detroit, MI	162.550 MHz
Superior	Marquette, MI	162.550 MHz	Erie	Toledo, OH	162.550 MHz
Superior	Sault Ste. Marie, MI	162.550 MHz	Erie	Sandusky, OH	162.400 MHz
Michigan	Green Bay, WI	162.550 MHz	Erie	Cleveland, OH	162.550 MHz
Michigan	Milwaukee, WI	162.400 MHz	Erie	Erie, PA	162.400 MHz
Michigan	Chicago, IL	162.550 MHz	Erie	Buffalo, NY	162.500 MHz
Michigan	Grand Rapids, MI	162.550 MHz	Ontario	Rochester, NY	162.400 MHz
Michigan	Traverse City, MI	162.400 MHz			

I will continue to issue these updates in an effort to keep you informed of the lake levels and the actions being taken to help alleviate the situations. These updates will accompany the monthly bulletin until the lakes return to safe levels.


JOSEPH PRATT
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding