



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

## Great Lakes Levels Update No. 34 May 3, 1988

From the standpoint of lake levels and weather, April was an uneventful month, bringing the Great Lakes past the traditional late winter-early spring storm season without incident. There were no reports of damage.

Overall, April precipitation over the Great Lakes basin was below average: Lake Superior 30% below average; Lakes Michigan-Huron slightly above average; Lake Erie 25% below average; and, Lake Ontario 30% below average.

All of the Great Lakes are emerging from their winter lows. The increase in April levels ranged from about one inch for Lake St. Clair to about six inches for Lake Ontario. Lakes Superior and Ontario are forecasted to continue slightly below average over the next six months; the remaining lakes are expected to remain somewhat above their long-term

averages while continuing to decline from the record highs of 1986 and early 1987.

The remaining storage put on Lake Superior during emergency regulation in 1985-86 has been eliminated in April. The May outflow from Lake Superior was increased from 62,500 cfs to 70,000 cfs, the prescribed plan flow for the spring (1 May starts the open-water period when outflows normally are not constrained by ice).

In view of the rapidly falling levels, the Advanced Measures Program for flood damage prevention will continue only through this spring, as needed. The projects at Wightmans Grove, Ohio on Lake Erie and Hampton Township on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron are nearing final completion.

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

For New York, Penn. & Ohio:  
Colonel Daniel R. Clark  
Cdr, Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199  
(716) 876-5454, Ext.2201

For Mich., Minn., & Wisc.:  
Colonel Robert F. Harris  
Cdr, Detroit District  
P.O. Box 1027  
Detroit, MI 48231-1027  
(313) 226-6440 or 6441

For Ill. & Indiana:  
LTC Jess J. Franco Jr.  
Cdr, Chicago District  
219 S. Dearborn St.  
6th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60604-1797  
(312) 353-6400

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The "Help Yourself" brochure is available at the District Offices listed above or from this office: North Central Division, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60605-1592; telephone (312) 353-6364.

Because of the continually improving levels conditions, the Corps of Engineers' "Self Help" program of distributing sandbags, sand, and plastic sheeting will continue only through this spring.

The International Joint Commission's Task Force Study Report (short-term measures) for alleviating fluctuations on the Great Lakes is complete. The Commission intends to forward, next month, an interim report to Governments based on the Task Force Report. Recently, the IJC has approved and publicly released the Plan of Study (long-term) for the Great Lakes Levels Reference. A Phase I report in May 1989 will feature a comprehensive framework for the systematic evaluation of measures, a preliminary assessment of certain measures, and an outline for the initiatives of Phase II. The Phase II report in September 1991 will give the results of evaluating specific priority

measures. Copies of the Plan of Study (POS) have been distributed to interested groups and libraries. Copies of these documents are also available from the IJC offices. Comments on the POS are welcome. In the United States write to: International Joint Commission; 2001 "S" Street, NW, 2nd Floor; Washington, DC 20440; telephone (202) 673-6222.



THEODORE VANDER ELS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding