



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

North Central Division

## Great Lakes Levels

Update No. 41

December 2, 1988

November was a very wet month, continuing the dramatic change from drought conditions that ended in August for the basin. Preliminary reports indicate that Great Lakes basin precipitation was about 70% (nearly two inches) above average. The Lake Superior basin received double its average precipitation, setting a new record. Precipitation on the Lakes Michigan-Huron basin almost set a new record as well. The Lake Erie basin received about 50% above-average precipitation. Only the Lake Ontario basin received less than average precipitation (about 10% below average). These late summer and fall increas-

es, remarkably, have just about compensated for earlier dry months in terms of annual accumulation.

The 30-day outlook from the National Weather Service for the month of December is for temperatures to be close to average and precipitation above average across the basin. Lake Superior, as an exception, can expect near-average precipitation. The 90-day (December - February) outlook calls for below-average temperatures in the northwest half of the basin and near-average temperatures elsewhere. Precipitation is expected to be above average basin-wide.

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Regarding lake levels, the heavy precipitation caused Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to rise in November, instead of continuing their normal seasonal decline. The other lakes held steady in November, another deviation from seasonal trends. The average November levels for Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Ontario were two inches, one inch and one inch, respec-

tively, below average. Lakes St. Clair and Erie were four inches and three inches, respectively, above average.

  
THEODORE VANDER ELS  
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