



**JS Army Corps
of Engineers**

North Central Division

Great Lakes Levels Update No. 33 April 1, 1988

March has proven unusually calm, extending a quiet winter. Again there were no reported severe storms or damage.

Overall, March precipitation on the Great Lakes basin was near average: Lake Superior, 75% above average; Lakes Michigan-Huron, 10% below; Lake Erie, 25% below; and Lake Ontario, 45% below.

The Great Lakes are beginning to emerge from winter lows. Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario rose slightly in March and should continue rising in April. Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair held steady in March. While Lake Superior is below average, its basin has a snowpack that is slightly above average. Lakes Superior and Ontario are expected to keep long-term average levels over the next six months;

the remaining lakes remain somewhat above long-term average, while continuing to decline from historic highs in 1986 and early '87.

We are slowly eliminating the remainder of storage put on Lake Superior during emergency regulation in 1985-1986. This elimination means an increase in the monthly Lake Superior outflow from 55,000 cfs (minimum allowed by the regulation plan) to 62,500 cfs during January through April 1988.

In view of great improvement, the Advanced Measures Program for damage prevention will continue only through this spring, as needed. Projects being completed are at Wightmans Grove, Ohio on Lake Erie and Hampton Township on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron.

For Great Lakes basin 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

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

The winter calm notwithstanding, April storms can cause severe damage, especially with little ice on the lakes. Be alert to near-shore wave warnings provided by various National Weather Service Offices. Information can usually be heard on the Service's local weather radio broadcasts.

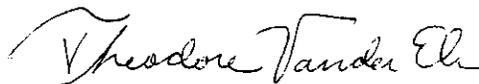
The Corps of Engineers' "Self Help" distribution of sandbags, sand and plastic sheeting to flood-threatened communities will continue; but only for temporary

measures this spring. Contact local or state disaster assistance agencies for materials and assistance under this program.

The International Joint Commission's Task Force Study Report (short-term measures) for alleviating fluctuations on the Great Lakes is completed. The commission will forward, in June, an interim report to Governments based on the Task Force Reports. The IJC has also approved 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 compensating measures, a preliminary assessment of certain

measures, and an outline for the initiatives of Phase II. A Phase II report in September 1991 will give results of evaluating specific priority measures. Copies of the Plan of Study have been distributed to interested groups and libraries. Copies of these documents are also available from the IJC offices. Comments on both the Task Force Summary Report and the Plan of Study are welcome. In the United

States write to: International Joint Commission;
2001 "S" Street, NW, 2nd Floor; Washington, D.C.
20440; telephone: (202) 673-6222.



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Commanding