



US Army Corps
of Engineers
North Central Division

GREAT LAKES LEVELS
UPDATE No. 46
MAY 3, 1989

Overall, Great Lakes basin precipitation was well below average in April. Lakes Superior and Erie experienced near-average rainfall and the other lakes were extremely dry. The reader is referred below to the table of estimated precipitation for the month of April.

Basin	Provisional Great Lakes Precipitation (inches)			
	1989*	1900-87 Average	Diff.	% of Ave.
Superior	1.6	2.0	-0.4	80%
Mich-Huron	1.5	2.5	-1.0	60%
Erie	2.8	3.1	-0.3	90%
Ontario	1.6	2.8	-1.2	60%
Great Lakes	1.7	2.5	-0.8	70%

* Estimated

There was light spring snowmelt runoff in the United States portion of the Great Lakes basin this year. The extensive snow coverage in some areas melted under ideal conditions -- with very little rainfall on top of a slowly melting snow cover. The potential for flooding along several rivers did not materialize.

The National Weather Service projects May's rainfall to be near-average basin-wide. The National Weather Service also projects May's temperatures to be near-average for the Lake Michigan basin and western half of the Lake Superior basin, with below-average temperatures elsewhere.

The water levels of all the Great Lakes, except Ontario, are close to average for this time of year. They are expected to remain close to their seasonal levels, barring the onset of either drought or extreme wet conditions. Lake Ontario is still several inches below average. The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control's program of reduced outflows raised Lake Ontario's level by about 4 inches as of the end of April.

With the continuation of this program in May, during the Ottawa River spring runoff, it is expected that the lake's level will be near average by the end of this

month and will remain somewhat above average for the summer.

The Project Management Team for the International Joint Commission's Reference Study on fluctuating water levels will complete its Phase I progress report in May. The report will be transmitted to the Commission for consideration and subsequent publication and distribution to the public after Commission review. Study recommendations for proposed future activities under the Reference will also be included in the report.

During this navigation season, commercial shipping interests, marina owners/operators and private slip owners may be intending to dredge. Before you begin, you should know that a Department of Army permit is required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and possibly Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, depending on the location of the dredged material disposal site.

To provide you with a prompt response, it is important that you submit a complete permit application. This includes the application form, drawings indicating the location of the project, its purpose, quantities, dimensions (length, width, and depth), method of dredging (mechanical/hydraulic), and the place where the dredged materials will be discharged. In some cases, testing of bottom sediments for contaminants may be required. In addition, permits are required for many other activities, such as constructing docks or bulkheads, placing mooring piles or fills, etc. To determine if a permit is required for your activity, call the District Office (indicated on the reverse side of this letter) for your area.

THEODORE VANDER ELS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

For information on permits, call the District Office indicated below for your area:

For NY, PA & OH:
Buffalo District
(716) 876-5454

For MI & IN:
Detroit District
(313) 226-2218

For IL:
Chicago District
(312) 353-6428

For MN & WI:
St. Paul District
(612) 220-0375

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

For NY, PA & OH:
Colonel Hugh F. Boyd III
Cdr, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
(716) 876-5454, Ext. 2201

For MI, MN, & WI:
Colonel John D. Glass
Cdr, Detroit District
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027
(313) 226-6440 or 6441

For IL & IN:
LTC Jess J. Franco Jr.
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219 S. Dearborn St.
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