



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Detroit District

# News Release

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## ***Alpena Gauge Station contract awarded, construction begins***

**Detroit** — Three federal agencies have come together to construct a facility to help measure water levels and gather weather information.

In partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Ocean Service (NOS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District office has awarded a contract to Meridian Contracting Services, LLC to construct a water level gauge station for NOAA/NOA in Alpena, MI. The COE engineered the design and will oversee the construction of the water-level station.

These agencies are also completing this project in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and the City of Alpena.

The construction is scheduled to begin early this month and last for approximately 8 weeks. The new gauge stations will be located on the DNR, Fisheries' property on Fletcher Street, on the east side of the City boat ramp.

The gauge house will consist of a concrete well that will extend about 17" below the ground. An intake pipe will extend from the bottom of the well, underground into the Thunder Bay River. The well will be covered by a small brick building that will house the Data Collection Platform (DCP) and associated sensors that NOAA uses to measure the water elevation of Lake Huron.

The Alpena water-level station will replace the existing Harrisville one, which is 30 miles south of Alpena and will be part of the Great Lakes network of stations in both the United States and Canada. This program is required by congress and by international treaties and has a mission of providing a hydraulic vertical reference datum by which the two governments may manage Great Lakes Basin water resources.

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Gauge Station 2-2-2

International management of the water resources in the Great Lakes Basin is vital to ensuring the safety of the lakes many users. The Great Lakes Program takes into account fluctuations of the lakes' water levels and the outflows of rivers relative to: lake level forecasting, shipping, international cooperative treaties and agreements, riparian interests, hydroelectric power generation, construction, dredging, litigation and other water resources management and development activities.

The site will be equipped with meteorological sensors that will measure the wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, air and water temperature and relative humidity. The data will also be used for aiding safe navigation, coastal management and research.

All of the data obtained from this gauge station will be available in real-time from NOAA's Interactive Voice Response System, by calling (310) 713-9596, or may be viewed via the Internet at [www.glakesonline.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.glakesonline.nos.noaa.gov).