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APRIL 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior began its seasonal rise in April. Its mean water level for the month was 600.4 feet, which was 6 inches higher than it was in April 2007, 10 inches lower than its monthly Long-Term Average (LTA), and 8 inches lower than its chart datum. After receiving below average precipitation the first three months of the year, precipitation within the Lake Superior basin was about 40 percent higher than its April average. In fact, Lake Superior was the only lake that experienced above average precipitation. Over the past year, precipitation has been near average. Lake Superior's outflow was lower than its monthly average. Lake Superior is forecasted to continue rising through August, and to rise above chart datum this month. It is forecasted to be 8 to 15 inches above last year's levels, and be 6 to 7 inches below its LTA through October.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

The water level of Lake Michigan-Huron rose 6 inches in April. It was 4 inches below its mean April 2007 water level. In addition, Lake Michigan-Huron's water level was about 3 inches below its chart datum and 19 inches below its LTA. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received slightly below average precipitation in April, but precipitation within the basin has been average over the past year. As in the previous two months, Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River was below average for April. Also, the net supply of water to the lake was over 40% above average. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to continue to rise through July, and will reach its chart datum this month. The Lake is expected to reach its level of a year ago this month, and be 5 to 8 inches above last year's levels through the summer. It is projected to be 15 to 18 inches below its LTA through October.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's level also rose in April. Its average water level in April of 574.1 feet was 4 inches higher than March's average level. In addition, Lake St. Clair was an inch above its April 2007 mean water level, but 2 inches below its April LTA. The Lake St. Clair basin received precipitation in April that was about 33% below average. Just as in March, its outflow through the Detroit River was above normal. Lake St. Clair is predicted to reach its seasonal peak this month. It is projected to be near its level of a year ago, and be 5 to 9 inches lower than its LTA, during the next 6 months.

LAKE ERIE

During the first two weeks of April, Lake Erie rose steadily, then abruptly began declining. Despite the decline, Lake Erie's mean water level in April was 5 inches higher than it was in March. Unlike the previous two months, when the Lake Erie basin received significantly above average precipitation, precipitation in April was less than two-thirds of its monthly average. Its basin has received above average precipitation over the past year. Lake Erie's mean April level of 572.2 feet was 3 inches higher than it was last April, and 7 inches above its LTA. Its outflow through the Niagara River was slightly higher than normal. Lake Erie's level is predicted to continue falling during the next 6 months. It is forecasted to be near the same level as it was last year though October.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level climbed dramatically in April. Its mean water level was a foot higher than March's. The lake was 12 inches above its LTA, and 7 inches above last April's monthly mean level. Lake Ontario's rise is attributed to significant precipitation in the western part of its basin, and the reduction of flow out of the lake due to extremely high levels at Montreal, Quebec. Precipitation within the entire lake basin, however, was below its April monthly mean. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was near average. Its net basin supply was over 25% above normal. Lake Ontario is projected to reach its seasonal peak this month. It is predicted to be 6 to 10 inches above last year's level. Lake Ontario is forecasted to be 4 to 12 inches higher than its LTA the next 3 months, but will be near its LTA the following 3 months.