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DECEMBER 2007 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Precipitation over the Lake Superior basin during December was near average and 2007 precipitation as a whole was 1.7 inches above average. Lake Superior's monthly mean water level for December was 600.8 feet; 12 inches below average, 7 inches above the record low, 5 inches above DEC 2006 and 4 inches below chart datum (601.1 ft). Evaporation during the month of December was near average. The December outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was below average. Lake Superior's water level is forecasted to be 9 to 11 inches below its long-term average (LTA), 6 - 11 inches above its level of one year ago and below chart datum through June 2008.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its period of seasonal decline in December. The December monthly mean water level was 576.4 feet; 27 inches below average, 13 inches below chart datum (577.5 feet) and 7 inches above the record low. Precipitation during the month was about a half inch above average and precipitation during January - December 2007 about 2.5 inches below average. Evaporation during December was near average. The outflow from Lake Huron into the St. Clair River was also below average. Lake Michigan-Huron's water level is forecasted to continue its seasonal decline through February. The lake will remain about 24 - 26 inches below its LTA, 5 -13 inches below last year's levels, and below chart datum through June 2008. With very dry conditions over the next few months, water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron could come close to setting new record lows. It is noted however that precipitation in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin is forecasted to be above average in January.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair is also in its period of seasonal decline and is forecasted to reach its seasonal low in February. Ice in the narrow channels of the St. Clair River delta can cause large short term fluctuations in Lake St. Clair's water level. Precipitation in the basin was about an inch above average in December, while outflow into the Detroit River was below average. The lake was at 572.7 feet in December or 14 inches below its LTA. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to remain 9 to 15 inches below its LTA, 8 to 15 inches below last year, but well above its record lows through June 2008.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie is nearing its seasonal low. Due to ice, water levels on Lake Erie are usually relatively flat from December through February. The December monthly mean water level on Lake Erie was 570.4 feet or 5 inches below average and 12 inches below December 2006. Precipitation in the Lake Erie watershed was above average in December and near average for all of 2007. Outflow from the lake into the Niagara River was below average in December. Forecasted water levels through June will remain 5 to 11 inches below LTA and 9 to 18 inches below last year's levels but well above record lows.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario is also nearing its seasonal low. December's monthly mean water level was 243.8 feet or 8 inches below average. Precipitation was above average in December, but precipitation over the last twelve months was close to 5 inches below average. Outflow from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River was below average in December. Forecasted water levels through June 2008 are below average through April and near average by May and June. Very wet weather could bring Lake Ontario back to near average by February.