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MAY 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal rise in May. Its mean water level for the month was 601.0 feet, which was 13 inches higher than it was in May 2007, 7 inches lower than its monthly Long-Term Average (LTA), and 1 inch lower than its chart datum. This past month the level of Lake Superior rose 5 inches, while on average the level rises by 4 inches. For the second consecutive month, the Lake Superior basin received above average precipitation. Over the past year, precipitation has been near average. Lake Superior's outflow was lower than its monthly average. By the end of the month, Lake Superior was above chart datum and is expected to remain above chart datum over the next 6 months. It is forecasted to be 6 to 15 inches above last year's levels, and be 6 to 7 inches below its LTA through November.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron also continued its seasonal rise in May and was 2 inches above chart datum. Lake Michigan-Huron's mean water level was 176.04 feet which was 1 inch below its May 2007 level and 18 inches below its LTA. Precipitation in the basin was near average in May as it has been over the past year. The net supply of water to Lake Michigan-Huron during May was below average as well as the lake's outflow through the St. Clair River. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to continue its seasonal rise through July and August, and will stay above its chart datum over the next 6 months. Although the lake is predicted to be several inches higher than last year's levels, it will be 15-18 inches below its LTA through November.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

May's average level on Lake St. Clair held steady around 574.2 feet which was very close to April's average level. This past month, Lake St. Clair was 1 inch lower than last year's level and 5 inches below its May LTA. The Lake St. Clair basin received near average precipitation in May and the lake's outflow through the Detroit River was below normal. Lake St. Clair is predicted to begin its seasonal decline this month which is earlier than normal. It is projected to be near its level of a year ago, and 7 to 9 inches lower than its LTA during the next 6 months.

LAKE ERIE

After its early seasonal peak in April, Lake Erie began its seasonal decline this past month. The mean water level in May of 174.36 feet was the same as May 2007 and 2 inches higher than its LTA. Unlike the month of April which brought less than two-thirds of its monthly average precipitation, near average precipitation fell in the Lake Erie basin in May. Its outflow through the Niagara River was near average. Lake Erie's level is predicted to continue falling during the next 6 months. Through November, it is forecasted to be near last year's levels.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario reached its peak during the month of May. Its mean water level for the month was 247.1 feet. This May's average level was 5 inches higher than April's level, 11 inches above its LTA and 10 inches above last May's monthly mean level. Precipitation and the net water supply within the basin were below their respective May averages. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was above its May average. Although Lake Ontario is projected to begin its seasonal decline this month, it is predicted to be 6 to 9 inches above last year's levels. Lake Ontario is forecasted to be 1 to 6 inches higher than its LTA the next 3 months and then similar to its LTA the following 3 months.