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SEPTEMBER 2008 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior began its seasonal decline during the month of September. Its mean water level of 601.61 feet was 2 inches lower than August and 14 inches above last year's water level. Lake Superior was 7 inches higher than its chart datum elevation and 7 inches below its long term average (LTA) for September. Precipitation in the Lake Superior basin was near average during the month of September and has been near average over the past year as well. The outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was also near average. The latest 6-month forecast continues to show Lake Superior's water level 4 to 6 inches above those of a year ago and 6 to 7 inches below its LTA.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its normal period of seasonal decline in September, as its water level dropped two inches during the month. Its mean water level of 578.02 feet was 9 inches higher than it was last August, 7 inches above chart datum and 13 inches below its LTA. Precipitation in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin was more than one inch above average in September and has been above average over the past 12 months. The outflow from Lake Michigan-Huron into the St. Clair River was near average in September. Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to remain 9 to 13 inches above its level of a year ago and 13 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair also continued its seasonal decline in September; its water level 2 inches lower than its August level. The lake's mean monthly level was 574.18 feet; 7 inches higher than last September's level and 3 inches below its September LTA. The outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River was near average. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to be 4 to 8 inches higher than last year's levels through January 2009 and 3 to 4 inches lower than its LTA through March.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie dropped 4 inches this past month as it continued its seasonal decline. Its September mean water level was 571.29 feet which is 2 inches higher than last September's level and only one inch lower than its LTA. Precipitation in the Lake Erie basin during September was a half inch above average and has been 14% above average over the past 12 months. Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River was near average in September. Lake Erie is forecasted to remain slightly above last year's levels through December and 1 to 11 inches below last year's levels through March. The lake will be 3 to 4 inches below its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level continued its seasonal decline in September. Its mean water level of 245.44 feet was 10 inches lower than August's level. Lake Ontario was 10 inches higher than its level of a year ago, and 3 inches higher than its September LTA. Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River was near average in September. Although Lake Ontario was the only Great Lake to see below average precipitation during the month, precipitation has been 18% above average over the past year. Levels on Lake Ontario are expected to remain 4 to 6 inches above last year's levels through December, then fall 4 to 13 inches below last year's level through March. It is forecasted to be below its LTA over the next 6 months.