



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
North Central Division

**GREAT LAKES LEVELS  
UPDATE No. 51  
OCTOBER 3, 1989**

Rainfall in the Great Lakes basin was again well below average in September. Hurricane Hugo put only about 3/4 inch of rain on the Lake Ontario basin and a lesser amount on the Lake Erie basin; both of these lakes received slightly above average total rainfall. All of the other lake basins received well below average rainfall. Six of the nine months of 1989 have had below average precipitation basin-wide. The following table shows estimated rainfall for the month of September.

Basin	1989*	Provisional Great Lakes Precipitation (inches)		
		1900-88 Average	Diff.	% of Ave.
Superior	2.2	3.5	-1.3	60%
Mich-Huron	1.9	3.4	-1.5	55%
Erie	3.4	3.1	+0.3	110%
Ontario	3.3	3.1	+0.2	105%
Great Lakes	2.4	3.4	-1.0	70%

\* Estimated

The National Weather Service is forecasting below-average rainfall in October for all of the Great Lakes basin except Lake Superior, for which near-average rainfall is forecast. The forecast for October's temperatures is for near-average throughout the basin.

Water levels, except for Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron, are somewhat above average for this time of year. All of the Lakes are in their seasonal decline towards their winter lows.

The Phase I Progress Report from the Project Management Team (PMT) on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Levels Reference Study has been submitted to the International Joint Commission (IJC). The PMT invites interested persons to submit comments on its Phase I Progress Report on Saturday, October 14, 1989 in Hamilton, Ontario during a Public Forum on the Levels Study. Those wishing to attend the Public Forum or obtain a copy of the report should contact Kim Tassier, International Joint Commission at (202) 673-6222. There will also be a videoconference that day; details are on the other side of the Update Letter.

The IJC will continue to receive written comments on the Phase I Progress Report, in addition to suggestions on the study's approach to Phase II, through November 30, 1989. In Canada, send written comments to the International Joint Commission, 100 Metcalfe Street, 18th floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5M1. In the United States, send written comments to the International Joint Commission, 2001 S Street NW, Second floor, Washington, DC 20440.

On a more personal note, this is my last monthly bulletin as I am retiring from the U.S. Army effective the end of this month. My replacement is Brigadier General Jude W.P. Patin. I hope that these bulletins have been of benefit to you and provided meaningful insight over the past 27 months.

**THEODORE VANDER ELS**  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

### 14 October 1989 Videoconference

On 14 October 1989 the International Joint Commission will host its second international satellite videoconference to communicate with and discuss Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water levels and flows issues, and the PMT's findings, with people on both sides of the border. Host-moderator Everett Banning, Canadian correspondent for ESPN's National Business Today, will engage senior study participants, interest group representatives, and guests in discussions. Members of the public can ask questions during a portion of the conference.

The conference is scheduled to start at 9:30 Eastern Time (8:30 Central Time) and last for three hours. The live satellite videoconference will originate in Hamilton, Ontario, and is available free and unscrambled to cable systems, television broadcasters, colleges, communities and

home satellite dish operators anywhere in North America. Viewers are encouraged to participate through the use of special 800-telephone lines set up for the conference.

Tuning in the signal at the beginning of the test signal, 60 minutes before the program start, is strongly advised. Specific satellite information follows:

Location	99° West (Westar 4)
Transponder	12 direct (channel 23)
Polarization	Horizontal
Video Frequency	4160 Mhz
Audio Frequency	6.8 Mhz

For technical information before the day of the program, contact Gordon Wyatt, Sheridan Videoconferencing, 416-849-2872.