

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

17 March, 1955

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the intention expressed in the letters which it addressed on 23 February, 1955, to the Secretary of State of the United States and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada respectively, the International Joint Commission met in Montreal on 14, 15 and 16 March, 1955. The meeting was held to enable the Commission to reach tentative conclusions as to the range of stage of Lake Ontario which, on technical considerations, would be most appropriate in accordance with the purposes of the Lake Ontario Reference dated 25 June, 1952, submitted to the Commission by both Governments under the provisions of Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of January 11, 1909.

At the meeting in Montreal, the Commission received technical information and advice from the International Lake Ontario Board of Engineers. It also had the benefit of the advice and views of the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, the St. Lawrence River Joint Board of Engineers and Counsel for the Governments of the United States and Canada.

Written representations were received from lakeshore property owners and municipalities and from the St. Lawrence power and seaway agencies of both countries.

As a result of its deliberation, the Commission is satisfied that measures can be taken, having due regard to the interests of all concerned, to regulate the level of Lake Ontario for the benefit of property owners on the shores of the lake in both countries, so as to reduce the extremes of stage which have been experienced in the past.

It is the Commission's tentative conclusion that the works for the development of power in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, which were approved by the Commission in its Order of Approval dated 29 October, 1952, should be operated in accordance with the criteria set forth below. These criteria are consistent with the basic, governing requirements of paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of that Order of Approval. The elevations indicated in the criteria are referred to the Oswego gage and are based on the principal gages on Lake Ontario, adjusted to the Oswego gage, United States Lake Survey 1935 datum. As soon as a method of regulation, based on these criteria, has been worked out in detail and approved, the Commission proposes to substitute it for Method of Regulation No. 5 mentioned in paragraph (i) and in paragraph (a) of Appendix A of that Order of Approval.

Proposed criteria for a method of regulation of outflow and levels of Lake Ontario applicable to the works in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River:

- (a) The regulated outflow from Lake Ontario from 1 April to 15 December shall be such as not to reduce the minimum level of Montreal Harbour below that which would have occurred in the past with the supplies to Lake Ontario since 1860 adjusted to a condition

Honourable L. B. Pearson,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa.