

of control over levels and flows. Each of these independently of the others, establishes certain objectives in the management of these waters.

The Ontario department of lands and forests, Ontario Hydro, and the federal Department of Public Works are these present agencies. The major part of our problem stems from the fact that each agency has different objectives. None of them, except the federal Department of Public Works, takes into account the effects of their day to day, or long range water management decisions on the levels of the French river.

The Department of Public Works attempts to help us by increasing, or reducing, outflows from lake Nipissing. There are no further control works down river to effect stability of levels.

Recently, there has been a much better attitude on everyone's part to improve the spawning situation on the river, but it is an extremely complex situation as each agency is concerned with its primary water management objectives. At the present time, an advisory committee is being formed which should help to co-ordinate the efforts of these agencies to establish some stability of levels in the French river.

We respectfully submit, however, that in the end, control works on the whole system will be required to effectively obtain reasonable long term stability. It does not seem reasonable to us to assume that controls at one point on the waterway—specifically the source of the French river—can provide any stabilizing effect on the waters of the lower end where no controls exist. In actual fact, the lower reaches are continually subjected to the whims, so to speak, of the control authorities on the upper reaches.

More details could be given on the effects over the years, of actions by control agencies on this watershed. However, we believe this general outline should provide some insight into this problem.

Efforts of the French River Resorts association

Our association has been working over a period of fifteen years towards a solution to this problem. As a result of its efforts, several events have occurred that have helped to some extent.

First, we made it known to the Department of Public Works that they must assume a degree of responsibility for physical damages that occurred from their mismanagement of the Chaudiere control works and that when they were making operating decisions they should have some thought as to downstream effects. Bluntly speaking, they had to think of more than just lake Nipissing. It took legal action to establish these responsibilities.

We then learned of the tremendous damage that was occurring to our fish population through the department of lands and forests and worked to obtain a closer degree of co-operation between the department biologists and the control authorities—especially at spawning times.

Continuing in this vein, we now are on the verge of establishing the aforementioned advisory committee. This should prove to be a very real asset to the entire watershed area.

Realizing that no real solution is satisfactory that does not encompass the entire system, we are now enjoying a much better liaison with the other interested agencies.

We feel that several things are important in reaching a final solution to the problem. Number one, we believe that studies should be undertaken, with all possible speed, to establish the feasibility of additional control works on the system to ensure more reasonable variations in levels.

Further, we suggest there should be an overall authority having jurisdiction over the actions of all controlling agencies located in the watershed. This single authority would be responsible for ensuring the most beneficial use of these waters for all who are located on the waterway, or use its facilities.