

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

9 May, 1955

Dear Sir,

In my letter of March 17, 1955, I transmitted to you on behalf of the Commission criteria for a plan of regulation of Lake Ontario in connection with the St. Lawrence Power Project, having regard to all interests affected. In that letter, I also informed you that after public hearings and a consideration of the views of all concerned, the Commission would present an interim report recommending, for the approval of the two Governments, a range of lake levels and criteria for acceptable duration of high stages of Lake Ontario.

Public hearings were held at Rochester, New York and at Toronto, Ontario on April 12 and 14. The Commission considered this matter fully at an executive session in Buffalo, New York on May 5, 1955.

As a result of these deliberations the Commission has reached agreement on a range of elevations, 244 (navigation season) to 248.0 feet as nearly as may be. Further, a plan of regulation (No. 12-A-9) has been developed within this range and three copies of it are enclosed. This plan, subject to minor adjustments that may result from further detailed study, and evaluation, seems to offer the best possibility of achieving the optimum objective set forth in the Reference.

The Commission accordingly recommends to the Governments the adoption of the criteria, range of elevations and plan of regulation mentioned above. If the Governments concur in this recommendation the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power entities should be advised that they may proceed with the determination of the critical profiles and the final design of channel excavations based on this range and plan of regulation 12-A-9, with the assurance that any adjustments required will be of a minor nature.

Taking into account the downstream interests and on the basis of the past 95 years' experience, the recommended method of regulation will lower all stages in Lake Ontario above elevation 246 and thus provide substantial benefits to the lakeshore owners.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) A. G. L. McNaughton
Chairman, Canadian Section,
International Joint Commission.