

Public Interest Advisory Group Meeting

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, June 26, 2003 - The Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) for the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study is holding a meeting to talk with the public regarding the Study to evaluate the current rules for the water level regulation of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The meeting will be held Thursday, August 7, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Eastman Room of the Greece Town Hall, One Vince Tofany Boulevard, Greece, NY.

The 22-member PIAG is a group of U.S. and Canadian volunteers working with the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study to ensure effective two-way communication between the public and the Study Team. Because of the complexity of the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River System, it is likely that some compromises will need to be made. That is why it is important for the public to make the PIAG aware of their concerns.

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study is now in its third year. The Study was set in motion in 2000 by the International Joint Commission to assess and evaluate the Commission's Order of Approval used to regulate outflows from Lake Ontario through the St. Lawrence River. The current Order of Approval requires that the water levels and flows resulting from the St. Lawrence Seaway Power Project meet certain conditions and criteria to protect the interests in both countries, including shoreline communities, domestic and industrial water uses, commercial navigation and hydropower production. The Study is also evaluating the impacts of changing water levels on environmental factors, shore erosion, flood damages, recreational boating, and tourism. The Study will also take into account the forecasted effects of climate change.

To ensure that the study reflects the interests of the public, the Public Interest Advisory Group will be holding meetings in various locations along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shorelines. A meeting will be held in Sodus Bay, NY, on September 10, and Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on September 24.

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