

News Release

December 8, 2006

BOARD AUTHORIZES REDUCTION IN RAINY LAKE OUTFLOW

Due to the persistent dry conditions in the Rainy-Namakan basin and continued decline in the level of Rainy Lake, yesterday the Board authorized a reduction of Rainy Lake outflow from the present 100 cubic meters per second (m³/s) or 3,530 cubic feet per second (ft³/s) down to 80 m³/s (2,830 ft³/s). The reduction will occur in two steps of 10 m³/s (350 ft³/s) on Monday morning, December 11, and on Tuesday morning, December 12. Following the outflow reduction, Rainy River water levels will be allowed to stabilize for one week, after which the Board will consider possible further outflow reductions, but to no lower than 65 m³/s (2,300 ft³/s). These actions are being taken under the terms of the International Joint Commission's January 2001 Consolidated Order for regulation of the level of Rainy Lake and of other Boundary Waters in the Rainy Lake watershed.

In early October the level of Rainy Lake fell below its "Drought Line", as defined in the Consolidated Order. Under the terms of the Consolidated Order, Rainy Lake minimum outflow may be further reduced from 100 m³/s (3,530 ft³/s) to not less than 65 m³/s (2,300 ft³/s) at the discretion of the Board, whenever the lake level is below its drought line and following consultations with resource agencies, affected municipalities and others. The Board sought and obtained the views of these interests prior to its decision of yesterday. The current level of Rainy Lake is 336.83 m (1,105.1 ft.), 45 cm (18 in.) below its lower rule curve and 17 cm (7 in.) below its drought line.

Up-to-date information can be found by following the International Rainy Lake Board of Control link at www.ijc.org. Persons can also call the Board's engineering advisors, Rick Walden (819-997-2529) or Ed Eaton (651-290-5617).