

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY REGULATION OF THE LEVEL OF RAINY LAKE AND OF OTHER BOUNDARY  
WATERS IN THE RAINY LAKE WATERSHED

TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER

March 13, 2026

To the Official Compilation Prescribing the Method of Regulating the Levels of Boundary Waters dated  
September 13, 2018

WHEREAS

The International Joint Commission (the "Commission"), as part of the broader review and amendment of the regulation of Rainy and Namakan Lakes which culminated in the issuance of a new Order in 2018, included a High Flood Risk Rule Curve ("HFRRRC") in that Order, which was intended to provide the Water Levels Committee ("WLC") with greater flexibility in anticipating and responding to spring flooding in the basin;

The Commission issued a Temporary Supplementary Order on May 13, 2022 in order to provide the WLC with authority to target levels outside the rule curves in order to better manage outflows and balance upstream and downstream flooding in response to extreme high water conditions that impacted the entire system from April to June 2022;

On December 22, 2022, the WLC wrote the IJC, noting several issues regarding the high flood risk rule curve, asking it to amend its March 1, 2018 Order in order to eliminate the HFRRRC and adopt a single, broader rule curve, and the IRLWWB wrote the IJC on January 30, 2023, supporting the WLC's proposed changes, stating "The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board is aware of and endorses the Water Levels Committee's proposed changes to the 2018 Supplementary Orders regarding the High Flood Risk Rule Curve (HFRRRC)...";

The Commission issued a Temporary Supplementary Order on March 3, 2023, "in order to assess, on a temporary basis, the impact of and the public response to the changes, the IJC is temporarily amending its 2018 Order to allow the WLC to follow a single rule curve for the spring of 2023";

The Commission issued similar Temporary Supplementary Orders on December 8, 2023, for the spring 2024 freshet, and February 25, 2025, for the 2025 freshet, allowing the WLC to follow the single rule curve for these years, and asking it to report its findings with regard to regulation and communication under the single rule curve;

On July 9, 2025, the WLC wrote the IJC with its findings, recommending the renaming of the high flood risk rule curve as the spring buffer zone;

The Commission held a public comment period from December 8, 2025, to January 22, 2026;

The Commission has considered the experience of the WLC during the 2022 flooding and during the past three years of regulation under Temporary Supplementary Orders, and has concluded that an additional Temporary Supplementary Order for the 2026 freshet would allow the new spring buffer zone to be tested prior to any permanent changes to the IJC's Orders.

**THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS AND DIRECTS THAT**

From the date this Order is issued until July 15, 2026, the Order Prescribing the Levels of Boundary Waters dated June 8, 1949, as amended by the Supplementary Orders dated October 1, 1957, July 29, 1970, January 5, 2000, and March 1, 2018, as compiled in the Official Compilation Order dated September 13, 2018, is hereby amended by:

Substituting Condition 2.(a) with the following:

2.(a) The Companies, their successors or assigns shall operate the discharge facilities at the International Falls-Fort Frances Dam as authorized by the Water Levels Committee, in such manner that insofar as possible the level of Rainy Lake, unaffected by wind or currents, will be between the following minimum and maximum elevations on the dates shown or between elevations which can be interpolated between these dates, these elevations being above mean sea level. Furthermore, the companies, their successors or assigns shall keep the Water Levels Committee informed in advance of their intended actions. The Water Levels Committee shall monitor hydrologic conditions and the Companies' actions and may provide the Companies with directions for the operation of their discharge facilities. The Companies shall carry out any instructions provided by the Water Levels Committee, which may from time to time include instructions to target specific levels within the band.

**Rainy Lake Elevations**

Date	Lower Limit		Upper Limit	
	m	ft	m	ft
Jan 1	336.99	1105.61	337.25	1106.46
Mar 15	336.89	1105.28	337.18	1106.23
Apr 1	336.70	1104.66		
Apr 15			337.20	1106.30
May 1	336.80	1104.99	337.40	1106.96
June 1	337.30	1104.99	337.60	1107.61
July 1	337.50	1104.99	337.75	1108.10
July 15	337.50	1107.28	337.75	1108.10
Sept 22			337.64	1107.74
Sept 30	337.31	1106.66		
Nov 22	337.06	1105.84	337.26	1106.50
Nov 30	337.04	1105.77	337.26	1106.50
Dec 22	337.00	1105.64	337.27	1106.53
Dec 31	336.99	1105.61	337.25	1106.46

Deleting Condition 2.(b) and substituting the following:

2.(b) If forecasts show that the basin may experience high inputs that may cause flooding later in the season, the Water Levels Committee, with the prior written approval of the Commission, may direct the Companies to target levels within the rule curve established in 2(a) or the spring buffer zone, an additional

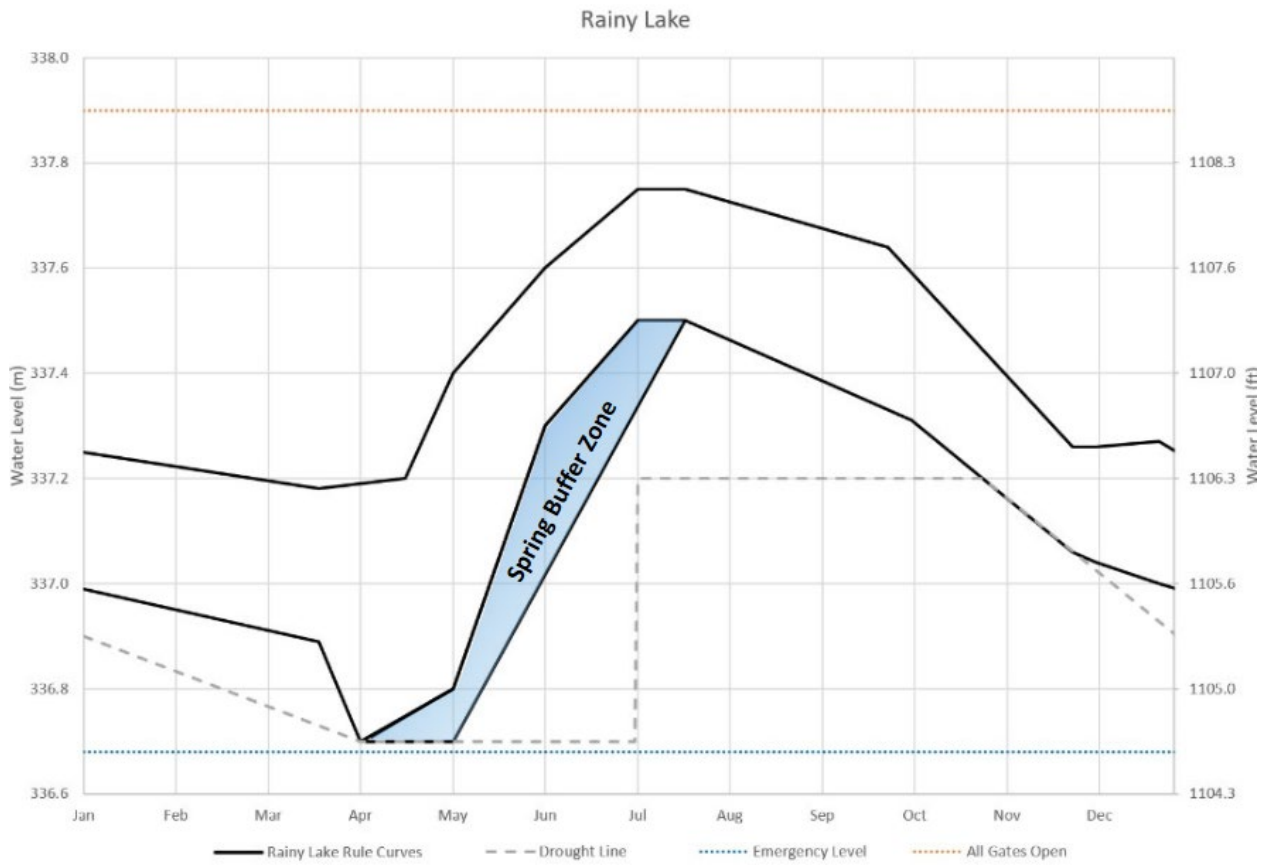
portion of the rule curve defined by the minimum and maximum elevations on the dates shown below, or between elevations which can be interpolated between these dates. The Water Levels Committee may direct the Companies to target levels within the spring buffer zone or the rule curve established in 2(a). The spring buffer zone may be used by the WLC, with the prior written approval of the Commission, at any time from April 1 to July 15, and the Water Levels Committee must consider whether or not it anticipates the use of the spring buffer zone in its spring regulation plan, which must be announced prior to March 10 each year. If, after the Water Levels Committee has made the determination to use the spring buffer zone, conditions change as the year progresses and the risk of flooding decreases, the Water Levels Committee may direct the Companies to return to following the standard rule curve for Rainy Lake contained in condition 2(a).

**Rainy Lake Elevations (Spring Buffer Zone)**

Date	Lower Limit		Upper Limit	
	m	ft	m	ft
Apr 1	336.70	1104.66	336.70	1104.66
May 1	336.70	1104.66	336.80	1104.99
June 1			337.30	1106.63
July 1			337.50	1107.28
July 15	337.50	1107.28	337.50	1107.28

Deleting the figure referenced in Condition 7. and substituting the following:

Figure 1



Signed on the 13th day of March, 2026.

Sincerely,

Pierre Baril  
Canadian Chair

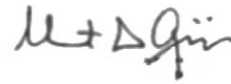
Gerald Acker  
U.S. Chair

Merrell-Ann Phare  
Commissioner, Canadian Section

Lance Yohe  
Commissioner, U.S. Section



Susan Chiblow  
Commissioner, Canadian Section



Robert Gioia  
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