



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BOX 1027
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231-1027

NOVEMBER 2007 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Precipitation over the Lake Superior basin during the month of November was about three quarters of an inch below average. The lake reached its seasonal peak during the month. Lake Superior's monthly mean water level for November was 601.0 feet; 12 inches below average, 7 inches above the record low, 6 inches above last year and 1 inch below chart datum (601.1 ft). Evaporation during the month of November was above average. Because of large differences between air and water temperature, the months of November and December on average have the largest evaporation rates. The November outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was below average. Lake Superior's water level is forecasted to be about 11 inches below its long-term average (LTA), 5 - 9 inches above its level of one year ago and below chart datum through May 2008.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its period of seasonal decline in November. The November monthly mean water level was 576.7 feet; 25 inches below average, 10 inches below chart datum (577.5 feet) and 5 inches above the record low. Precipitation during the month was about an inch below average and precipitation over the last twelve months is about 2.4 inches below average. Evaporation during November was above average. Because of large differences between air and water temperature, the months of November and December on average have the largest evaporation rates. The outflow from Lake Huron into the St. Clair River was also below average. Lake Michigan-Huron's water level is forecasted to continue its seasonal decline through February. Current projections show that the lake will decline 6 inches more than the normal seasonal decline because of decreased precipitation and increased evaporation. The lake will remain about 27 inches below its LTA, 9 -15 inches below last year's levels, and below chart datum through May 2008. If the lake experiences very dry conditions, water levels could approach record lows in the January through May timeframe.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair is also in its annual period of seasonal decline and is forecasted to reach its seasonal low in February. Precipitation in the basin was near average in November, while outflow into the Detroit River was below average. The lake was at 572.7 feet in November or 14 inches below its LTA. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to remain 11 to 17 inches below its LTA, 13 to 18 inches below last year, but well above its record low through May 2008

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie is nearing its seasonal low. On average, water levels on Lake Erie are relatively flat from December through February. The November monthly mean water level on Lake Erie was 570.2 feet or 7 inches below average and 12 inches below last year. Precipitation in the Lake Erie watershed was above average in November, but like Superior and Michigan-Huron it too experienced above average evaporation. Outflow from the lake into the Niagara River was below average in November. Forecasted water levels through May will remain 8 to 13 inches below LTA and 15 to 22 inches below last year's levels but well above record lows.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario is also nearing its seasonal low. November's monthly mean water level was 243.8 feet or 9 inches below average. Precipitation was above average in November, but precipitation over the last twelve months is close to 6 inches below average. Outflow from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River was below average in November. Forecasted water levels through May 2008 are below average, but very wet weather could bring Lake Ontario back to near average by February.