

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance
Issue 33 August 1, 2014

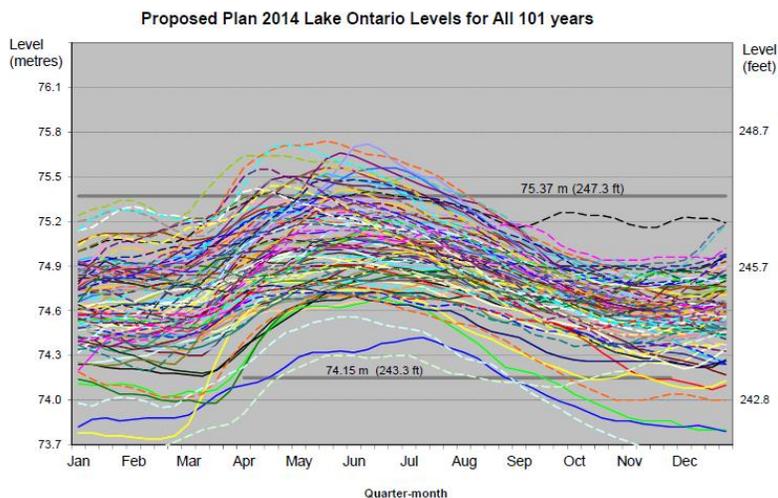
Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario Beaches and Riparian Property

In this issue:

- **Critical Flaw discovered in Plan 2014**
-

In a recent review of Plan 2014 and its supporting documentation, it has been discovered that a critical flaw in the operation of Plan 2014 has been overlooked by the International Joint Commission (IJC) and its plan formulators.

During the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study (LOSL), the Study Board met with representatives of Rochester Gas and Electric, which owned the Ginna Nuclear Plant at that time. Those representatives stated that the cooling water intakes were engineered based on the current operating plan in the same manner as other private and public infrastructures and, as such, have critical High and Low water set-points. Based on their calculations of those representatives, the Ginna plant would not have any problem with the Lake's historical high water levels. The representatives noted, however, that there was a critical low-water-level set-point of 244 feet that the Lake could not go below and the plant continue to operate.¹



In reviewing Plan 2014 data, it has been discovered that, during times of very low water supply (i.e. drought conditions), Lake Ontario could, if Plan 2014 were in operation, drop below 244 feet approximately 8.33% of the time. Additionally, the IJC Plan 2014 Trigger Points for corrective action are set below the 244 foot level, so there is nothing to stop the plunge.

Potentially, the plant could experience a lack of cooling water for the reactor. While the representatives stated that it might be possible to correct the situation, the question remains as to who will ultimately pay for the mitigation -- the State of New York, the federal government, or ratepayers. This is clearly another unfunded mandate from the IJC.

This is another example showing, once again, that the Plan 2014 Trigger Points are wrong, this time on the low side.

¹ Options for Managing Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Flows, Annex 2, page 126