

Presented to

**The Panel on the Future  
of the  
Trent Severn Waterway**

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We are pleased to present our views to the panel  
and hope they are of value to the panel process.

## **Overview:**

We understand and appreciate the value of the Trent Severn Water Way to the People of Ontario.

We believe, however that since the inception of the Trent Severn System over a hundred years ago its primary mandate has remained that of Navigation.

Times have changed and a review of Parks Canada's mandate and processes used to manage the Trent Severn Water Way are long overdue.

The economic expansion and value of the reservoir lakes has changed dramatically and will continue to grow over the foreseeable future.

This growth we believe significantly changes the economic model that should be used to evaluate the Trent Severn Waterway and all associated Reservoir and Flow-Through Lakes.

## **Review Recommendations:**

The “Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway” should include in their review the Reservoir / Feeder Systems as well as the mandate of the Trent Severn Waterway.

The following are key to any review of the Trent Severn Waterway mandate:

- The Trent Severn System’s mandate should be updated from that of having a Navigational focus to having an Economic focus that tries to maximize the value of all waters associated with the System.
- The Trent Severn System mandate should be revisited with a view to adjusting how they treat water levels based on their economic effects across the system including all feeder systems.
- The Trent Severn System’s mandate should be reviewed on a regular bases to ensure the continued value of the System and Reservoir resources.

Questions that need your consideration:

- 1) The current Water Levels for navigation across the System are guaranteed to be 6 feet which in all likelihood requires that levels be maintained above 6 feet in order to meet the advertised guarantee.
  - What levels are required in order to safely maintain a 6 foot guarantee for navigational purposes?
  - What levels could you reduce the navigational guarantee by before you significantly affect the economics of the Trent Severn System?
- 2) What are the characteristics of Craft utilizing the system?
  - Type
  - Size
  - Draft
  - Commercial
  - Recreational
- 4) What provides more value to the Province?
  - boating visitors to the system
  - the desirability of living by/on the system
  - What are the statistics?
- 5) If the navigational guarantee was reduced for example by 3 to 6 inches:
  - What would be the impact on the Reservoir and Feeder Lake Levels?
  - What would be the impact on the Trent Severn System economics?
  - How many boats would that have excluded yearly using the past 5 years as the sample?
- 6) If the navigational guarantee was reduced at the end of July for example:
  - What would be the impact on the economic model?
  - What would be the impact on the Reservoir and Feeder Lake Levels?
  - What would be the impact on the Trent Severn System economics?
- 7) If Natural Events (Global Warming) result in reduced water:
  - How will that effect the operation of the System?
  - How will the economic model be changed?
  - Will this impact water for household usage such as drinking?

- 8) Can the locks be improved to reduce the amount of water lost when the locks are used?
- 9) The Ontario Power Association are advocating greater use of water for hydro electric power:
  - What are the implications of the hydro generating stations need for water on the reservoir lakes?
  - Could this mean even greater draw downs for the reservoir lakes?
  - How does this impact the economic model for the entire system?
  - How much power do the hydro plants on the system provide?

### **Summary:**

We believe that the following must be done to ensure an economic and viable Trent Severn System.

- The Trent Severn System's mandate should be updated from that of having a Navigational focus to having an Economic focus that tries to maximize the value of all waters associated with the System. It must include all stakeholders.
- The Trent Severn System mandate should be revisited with a view to adjusting how they treat water levels based on their economic effects across the system including all feeder systems.
- The Trent Severn System's mandate should be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued value of the System and Reservoir resources.