

March 15, 2016

ICE BOOMS BEING REMOVED ON ST. LAWRENCE AND NIAGARA RIVERS Boaters, hunters and anglers warned to stay clear, stay safe

Toronto – Ontario Power Generation (OPG) advises hunters, anglers and recreational boaters that ice booms are being removed on the St. Lawrence and Niagara rivers.

The removal of the booms on the St. Lawrence River started on March 14 and will continue over the next several weeks depending on weather. Placed in the river off Galop Island, in the North Channel near Johnstown and at Prescott, the booms are chain-and-wood devices used to prevent the build-up of ice during the winter. They ensure an even freeze on the river, helping to improve power generation during the winter months. Ice booms are placed in the narrow reaches of the St. Lawrence River each November and removed in the spring when the ice has melted, before the St. Lawrence Seaway shipping season officially begins.

Removal of the Lake Erie - Niagara River ice boom began on March 8 by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and is nearing completion. The 22- span boom, which has been installed each year since 1964 to reduce the amount of ice entering the Niagara River, is owned and operated by OPG and NYPA. The boom reduces the potential for ice jams which can damage shorelines and reduce water flow needed for hydropower generation.

OPG advises all users of both the St. Lawrence and Niagara rivers to take extra care in areas where work is being undertaken to remove the booms. Boaters are also reminded to take every precaution around dams and generating stations, and to practice safety on Ontario's waterways.

To learn more about OPG's water safety program, please visit www.stayclearstaysafe.ca.

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For further information, please contact:

Ontario Power Generation
Media Relations
416-592-4008 or 1-877-592-4008
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