2007 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #7

NIAGARA REGION
WELLAND CANAL

SELF SPOTTING – TESTING IN LOCK 8

As part of our continuing efforts to innovate and improve our services offered, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation is currently evaluating certain technologies in an effort to develop a more modernized vessel spotting system.

A vessel self spotting system has now been installed at Lock 8 and consists of a laser ranging device, (similar to equipment tested in Maisonneuve at Cote-Saint-Catherine lock), located at the lower end of the lock. This equipment uses laser ranging technology, (which is eye safe), to recognize the vessel's hull and estimate its position in the lock. The vessel's foremost portion of the hull will be interpreted and the vessel's position in the lock will be displayed on an LED panel located on the tie up side of the lock at the lower end.

The vessel's estimated position will be updated dynamically as it progresses to its final mooring position.

The SLSMC will be evaluating the accuracy and the visibility of this system during the remainder of the 2007 navigation season and we request your assistance in evaluating its performance. An evaluation form will be provided to all down-bound vessels in Lock 8 that are tested. We request that Pilots / Masters complete the evaluation form and drop it off at Lock 7.

Your assistance will allow us to evaluate and optimize the performance of the system.

NOTE: Procedures have also been developed to test the "Self Spotting Equipment" in conjunction with the "Hands Free Mooring Equipment". The SLSMC plans to do some testing prior to the end of the 2007 navigation season using both these technologies simultaneously. You will be provided more details at the time of the testing.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation with this testing.

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