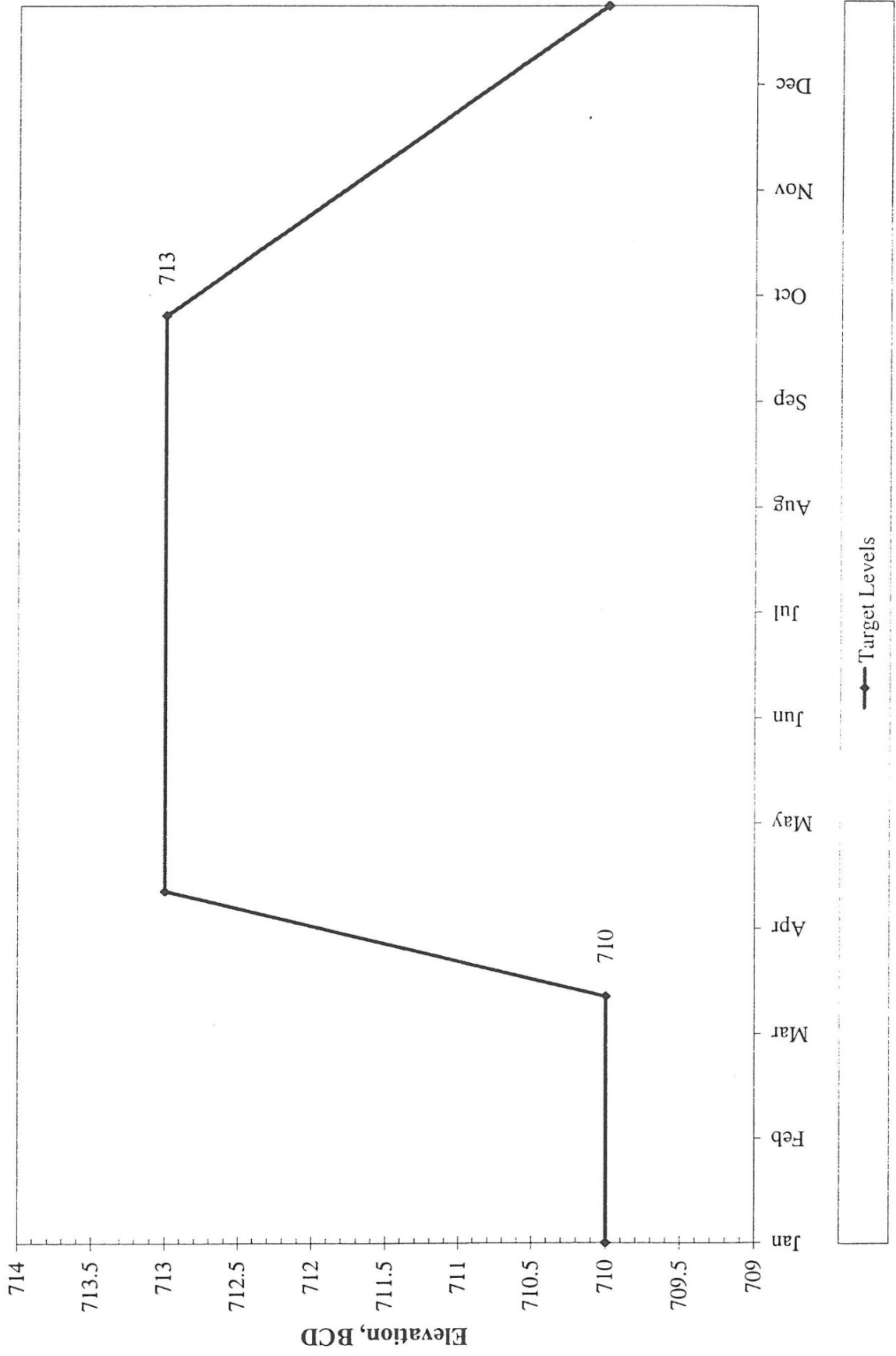


Owasco Lake Rule Curve



Managing the Water Resources of the Oswego River Basin in Central New York

FL-LOWPA



Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

INTRODUCTION

The Oswego River Basin in central New York State contains a diverse system of streams, lakes, and canals. Water flows from upland streams to the Finger Lakes, then to low-gradient rivers, which are part of the New York State Barge Canal, and ultimately to Lake Ontario (fig. 1). Although natural and man-made components of this hydrologic system are known, how the system functions and how the components interact are not completely understood. This Fact Sheet is a result of a shared interest on the part of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) in facilitating public understanding and discussion of the complex Oswego River Basin and its water-resource-management issues.

Figure 1. Location of major lakes and rivers, New York State Barge Canal, and major cities within the Oswego River Basin in Central New York

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE OSWEGO RIVER BASIN

The Oswego River Basin has an area of 5,100 square miles and encompasses three physiographic provinces — the Appalachian Plateau, the Tug Hill Plateau, and the Lake Ontario Plain (fig. 2). One additional

geographic area that plays a vital role in the flow regime of the Basin is the Clyde/Seneca River-Oneida Lake Trough, a belt of lowlands running west-to-east through which the Barge Canal flows. The trough is key to understanding the Oswego River Basin flow system — its natural and human-altered “plumbing”.

