Granite Island in Lake Superior

A new BSRN water site proposal

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Granite Island Location

Granite Island Coordinates:
46.721 N
87.411 W

Closest land point is about 10 km (6 miles) away.
Granite Island information:
- 0.01 square km (2.5 acre) granite rock island
- Granite Island at its base is approximately 193 m above sea level
- Rises nearly perpendicular to 18 m above surface of Lake Superior
- Surrounded by deep water (18-30 m)
Transportation to Granite Island is by boat. Pictured is a 9 m Zodiac 920.
Installation as viewed from the boat.

Installation is approximately 15 m above the water line (as measured from the solar tracker height). The Granite Island installation is approximately 208 m above sea level.
Motivation for establishing a Measurement Site at Granite Island

NASA Langley is interested in using BSRN and Clouds and the Earth’s Radiant Energy System (CERES) measurements with the Great Lakes Evaporation Network (GLEN) data to improve understanding of the Earth’s energy budget.
Other motivations:
• Water sites are uncommon
• Surface validation of satellites such as CERES
Instruments Currently Collecting Data at Granite Island:

- Downwelling Shortwave Direct (K&Z CHP 1)
- Downwelling Shortwave Diffuse (K&Z CM 22)
- Downwelling Shortwave Global (K&Z CM 22)
- Downwelling Longwave (K&Z CG4)
- Solar Tracker (K&Z Solys2)
- AERONET cimel sunphotometer

Upcoming Instruments Planned:
- Meteorological (Temperature, RH, Pressure, Wind Speed and Direction)
Solar Power System at Granite Island
A single day of downwelling shortwave (direct, diffuse and global) and downwelling longwave.

A week of downwelling shortwave and longwave data.
A single day of AERONET data at Granite Island.
Closest upper-air sonde launch station (as the crow flies) to Granite Island is KGRB (Green Bay, Wisconsin) at 240 km.
Seagulls are an issue that will need to be resolved. A temporary solution is using tie wraps to deter seagulls from perching on the domes.
Sun rise/set azimuths

- Summer solstice
- Winter solstice
- Equinox
- Sun elevation, noon
- Approximate 9-10 degree blockage, late in day, by towers and house in the summer months.
Calibration Procedures

- Two Automatic Hickey-Frieden (AHF) cavity radiometers are used to calibrate the shortwave instruments every year at the Langley Research Center location (BSRN site ID: LRC).

- Have attended the National Pyrheliometer Comparison at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado every year to calibrate the AHF’s for the last 20 years.

- Have attended the International Pyrheliometer Comparison in Davos, Switzerland every 5th year (last was in 2015) since 2000.

- The longwave instruments are sent to NREL for calibration every other year.
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THANK YOU

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