



MAR 16, 2006

Dear Great Lakes Stakeholder Community:

The U.S. and Canadian Federal governments, as the Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (the Agreement), have begun the process of reviewing the operation and effectiveness of the Agreement. This review (the Review) is required under Article X of the Agreement. As past reviews have shown, this exercise will be an intensive undertaking. In order to insure its success, the Review will require the cooperation and involvement of a variety of public and private sector Great Lakes Basin Stakeholders from the U.S. and Canada.

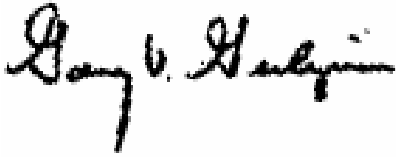
The importance of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is widely recognized. It commits the two countries to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and has been held up as a successful model of Canada-United States partnership, showing that bilateral cooperation is strong, effective and productive. The Review of the Agreement will help to insure that it continues to fulfill this role well into the future.

The Parties have also committed to an open, transparent and inclusive review process which allows for the involvement of all interested parties. To this end, the Great Lakes Binational Executive Committee (BEC) agreed at its February 8-9, 2006 meeting that the BEC Co-chairs would solicit both broad public stakeholder and government agency interest in participating in the Review through membership on a number of Review Working Groups (RWGs) which are described in the attachment.

The work of the RWGs will commence in late April 2006 and continue to the end of Calendar Year 2006. Participation will require a commitment to review particular aspects of the Agreement (as outlined in the attachment) and to attend regularly held conference calls (i.e. monthly or bimonthly), as well as the potential of attending a small number of in-person meetings. We also ask that those wishing to be involved provide some information on their background and level of expertise in the subject-matter relating to the Review Working Group in which they wish to participate.

Should you wish to be involved in the Review through participation in a Review Working Group, please complete the attached membership form and return it to either the Canadian or U.S. member of the Agreement Review Committee Secretariat (as appropriate) by no later than March 31, 2006.

Thank you in advance for considering your participation in this very important effort to insure the continued binational stewardship of the Great Lakes.



(for)

Thomas V. Skinner
U.S. Co-Chair
Binational Executive Committee



Pradeep Kharé
Canadian Co-Chair
Binational Executive Committee

**GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT REVIEW
REVIEW WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME: _____
TITLE: _____
AFFILIATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

REVIEW WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP:

- _____ GROUP A: Scope and Purpose; Goals and Objectives; Function
- _____ GROUP B: Toxic Chemicals
- _____ GROUP C: RAPs and LaMPs
- _____ GROUP D: Phosphorus and Non-Point Source Pollution
- _____ GROUP E: Sediment Related Issues
- _____ GROUP F: Research and Monitoring Provisions
- _____ GROUP G: Coast Guard Annexes
- _____ GROUP H: Groundwater Issues
- _____ SPECIAL ISSUE WORKING GROUP

INTEREST/EXPERTISE _____

PLEASE RETURN TO EITHER:

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REVIEW WORKING GROUPS

Review Group A: Scope and Purpose of Agreement; Goals and Objectives; Function

- Article I Definitions
- Article II Purpose
- Article III General Objectives
- Article V Standards, Other Regulatory Requirements, and Research
- Article X Consultation and Review
- Article XI Implementation
- Article XII Existing Rights and Obligations
- Article XIII Amendment
- Article XIV Entry Into Force and Termination
- Article XV Supersession

Review Group B: Toxic Chemicals

- Article IV Specific Objectives
- Annex 1 Specific Objectives
 - Specific Objectives Supplement to Annex 1
- Annex 10 Hazardous Polluting Substances
 - Appendix 1 – Hazardous Polluting Substances
 - Appendix 2 – Potential Hazardous Polluting Substances
- Annex 12 Persistent Toxic Substances
- Annex 15 Airborne Toxic Substances

Review Group C: RAPs and LaMPs

- Annex 2 Remedial Action Plans and Lakewide Management Plans

Review Group D: Phosphorus and Non-Point Source Pollution

- Annex 3 Control of Phosphorus
Phosphorus Load Reduction and Supplement
- Annex 13 Pollution from Non-Point Sources

Review Group E: Sediment Related Issues

- Annex 7 Dredging
- Annex 14 Contaminated Sediment

Review Group F: Research and Monitoring Provisions

- Annex 11 Surveillance and Monitoring
- Annex 17 Research and Development

Review Group G: Coast Guard Annexes

- Annex 4 Discharges of Oil and Hazardous Polluting Substances from Vessels
- Annex 5 Discharges of Vessel Wastes
- Annex 6 Review of Pollution from Shipping Sources
- Annex 8 Discharges from Onshore and Offshore Facilities
- Annex 9 Joint Contingency Plan

Review Group H: Groundwater Issues

- Annex 16 Pollution from Contaminated Groundwater

Special Issue Working Group: This Working Group will develop a list of potential environmental stressors and issues which may be impacting the Great Lakes Basin and, in addition to other criteria, will apply the following evaluation framework each:

1. What is the environmental stressor or issue?
2. What is its significance to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem?
3. How is it currently being addressed by the Governments?
4. Is there a need for further binational cooperation to address this stressor or issue?
5. How should Canada and the US cooperate to address this stressor or issue?
6. Does the current Agreement address this stressor or issue adequately or at all?
7. What are the advantages/disadvantages of including this stressor or issue in the GLWQA?
8. Is the GLWQA the most appropriate means of addressing this stressor or issue?
9. Does the GLWQA give authority to address this stressor or issue?
10. Where are additional authorities needed?