

If you use the water, it matters



The GLWQA Workbook

*A workbook to support participation
in public meetings by the
International Joint Commission
on the Canadian and U.S. governments'
review of the Great Lakes Water Quality
Agreement in 2006*



The GLWQA Workbook

This workbook is designed to help you participate in the public consultations that the International Joint Commission (IJC) is holding in the fall of 2005 on the forthcoming review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The governments of the United States and Canada will consider the views received by the IJC when they begin their review of the Agreement in early 2006.

Submissions must be received by November 30, 2005.

Individuals or organizations can submit their views to the IJC at public meetings, in a Web Dialogue, online, by e-mail, mail, fax or telephone. All information submitted to the IJC will be sent to the governments, with a synthesis report in early 2006.

For more information about the consultations, visit www.ijc.org/glconsultations

How to use this Workbook

At the end of the Workbook are a number of lined pages containing questions that might help you formulate your views about the upcoming review of the Agreement by the governments of Canada and the United States.

Use these pages to take notes during the public meetings or to prepare comments you want to add to the Web Dialogue, submit online or record on the special phone line.

You can also fill them in and mail them to the IJC or hand them to an IJC commissioner or staff member at any of the public meetings.

If you need another copy of the Workbook, you can download it from www.ijc.org/glconsultations.

Submit your views — attend a public meeting

- Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in **Montréal, Quebec**, at City Hall, 275 Notre-Dame Street East
- Monday, October 24 at 7 p.m. in **Duluth, Minnesota**, at the Central Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th Street
- Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in **Thunder Bay, Ontario**, at City Hall, 500 Donald Street East
- Thursday, October 27 at 7 p.m. in **Sault Ste Marie, Ontario**, in the City Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, 99 Foster Drive
- Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in **Bay City, Michigan**, at City Hall, 301 Washington Avenue
- Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in **Green Bay, Wisconsin**, at the KI Convention Center, 333 Main Street
- Wednesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. in **Chicago, Illinois**, in the Phelps Auditorium at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 South Lake Shore Drive
- Wednesday, November 2 at 3 p.m. in **Detroit, Michigan**, at the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, One Woodward Avenue, Suite 1900
- Wednesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. in **Windsor, Ontario**, at the Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Drive West
- Thursday, November 3, at 7 p.m. in **Cleveland, Ohio**, in the Rotunda of City Hall, 601 Lakeside Avenue
- Tuesday, November 8 at 7 p.m. in **Quebec City, Quebec**, at City Hall, 2 rue des Jardins
- Tuesday, November 8 at 7 p.m. in **Midland, Ontario**, in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 575 Dominion Avenue
- Wednesday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in **Toronto, Ontario**, at City Hall, 100 Queen Street West.
- Thursday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in **Rochester, New York**, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 30 Church Street

If you can't come to a meeting...

Join a Web Dialogue: This innovative online event will take place from November 29 to December 2.

Registration and other information will be posted at www.ijc.org/glconsultations

Contribute online: Use the Comments form at www.ijc.org/glconsultations

Send an e-mail: gl@windsor.ijc.org

Call toll-free and record your views: 1 866 813-0642

Fax: (613) 993-5583

Write

International Joint Commission
Great Lakes Regional Office

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P.O. Box 32869
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U.S.A.

Deadline: Midnight, November 30, 2005

Format of the meetings

There will be one or two IJC commissioners present at each meeting. They will welcome you and explain how the meeting will be run. They will ask those who wish to make a presentation to write their names on a card so that they can call them in order.

Please inform the staff early on if you wish to make a slide presentation using a computer and overhead so that arrangements can be made.

If you have a slide show, a written presentation or speaking notes, staff at the meeting would like to receive a copy. It will help in the preparation of the synthesis report and will be submitted in its entirety to the governments along with the transcript of the meeting.

Note that your oral presentation at the meeting can be a summary of your written paper.

You will be called to make your presentation and told how long you have to speak. Please end your presentation when requested so that others have time to make theirs after you.

All meetings will be recorded and transcribed. Some of the meetings will have English-French interpreting. Please always use the microphones so that we can capture your comments for the record and so the interpreters (and the audience) can hear you.

What will happen to your contributions?

The International Joint Commission will record and save all the contributions it receives through any channel, including at the meetings, online, by phone, fax, e-mail or mail, or in the Web Dialogue.

You will be able to read summaries and transcripts of the public meetings www.ijc.org/glconsultations under *What others have said* shortly after the meetings.

In early 2006, the IJC will prepare a synthesis report of all the views it has heard and deliver it to the governments along with the transcripts and all the submissions in the formats in which they were received (print, audio, video, etc.).

At the same time, the IJC will publish the report in print and electronic formats and post it on www.ijc.org. The original submissions will, to the extent possible, be available online as well; they will also be available on CD or DVD on request.

The information submitted by the public will inform the governments of the United States and Canada as they launch their own process in 2006.

For more information about the governments' review of the Agreement, see www.ijc.org/glconsultations.

About the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

First signed in 1972, the Canada-United Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement reflects the two countries' commitment to resolve a wide range of water quality issues facing the Great Lakes and the international section of the St. Lawrence River.

The 1972 Agreement set general and specific water quality objectives and mandated programs to meet them. It gave priority to point-source pollution from industrial sources and sewage plants. Point-source pollution was dramatically reduced and many visible and noxious pollution problems were alleviated.

A new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed in 1978. It undertook to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The new Agreement adopted an ecosystem approach (one which considers the interaction of air, land, water and living things, including humans) and called for a broad range of pollution-reduction programs. It also called for the virtual elimination of the input of persistent toxic substances following a zero discharge philosophy. The levels of various persistent toxic substances in the fish and wildlife declined significantly.

The Agreement was amended in 1987 and called for programs to restore beneficial uses in open lake waters and in 43 of the most contaminated local areas in the basin. Conditions have improved significantly in a number of these local "Areas of Concern", although only two have been delisted.

But now, despite considerable progress to date, new challenges are emerging while some old ones persist. What does this mean for the Agreement? Should it — or how should it — address issues like alien invasive species, population growth and urbanization, new chemical pollutants, climate change and human health?

The Agreement is a lengthy document, describing in great detail the programs and other activities the governments intend to carry out to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. Policy goals, major commitments, and organizational and procedural matters are contained in the body of the Agreement. Most detailed program descriptions, schedules and reporting arrangements are contained in Agreement annexes, which are an integral part of the Agreement.

For more detailed information about the Agreement, including summaries of all the articles and annexes, view or download the *Guide to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* from www.ijc.org/glconsultations. or call 1 866 813-0642 to order a printed copy.

Public engagement

How should the public be involved in the review and implementation of the Agreement?

- Is the public sufficiently informed about programs and progress to achieve the goals of the Agreement? What approaches have worked well and what other techniques could be used?
- Has there been sufficient engagement by the public in carrying out the Agreement’s goals and actions? How could it be improved?
- Are there examples of how the public has been involved that could serve as a model in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River basin?

The Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem: An International Treasure Worth Protecting

For those of us who live in Canada and the United States, it's easy to forget that almost 20 percent of the world's fresh water lies within our boundaries, in five of the world's largest lakes. Consider some of the great reasons to restore and protect the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem:

- the lakes cover 95,000 square miles or 245,759 square kilometers in area
- they provide a shoreline of 10,210 miles or 17,017 kilometers
- they hold 22,809 cubic kilometers or 5,500 cubic miles of water, but less than one percent of the water is renewed annually by precipitation, surface water runoff and inflow from groundwater surfaces
- more than 350 species of fish call the lakes their home, as well as 3,500 species of plants and animals
- the region is home for 37 million Canadians and Americans, and more than 40 million people get their drinking water each day from the Great Lakes drainage basin
- 56 billion gallons of water are used daily from the Great Lakes for municipal, agricultural or industrial uses
- more than 250 million tons of cargo is shipped on the Great Lakes annually, primarily iron ore, coal and grain. The shipping industry brings \$3 billion to the region each year, provides jobs for 60,000 Americans and Canadians, and uses the primary transportation route in eastern North America
- approximately 40 million pounds of fish are harvested each year, through commercial and sport fishing, which contributes more than \$3.5 billion to the region's economy
- 30 percent of all U.S. and more than 25 percent of Canadian agricultural production occurs in the Great Lakes region, thanks to rich soils, ample rainfall and a moderately long growing season. One-third of the basin's land is used for agriculture, primarily for corn, soybeans, and livestock such as cattle and hogs. The lakes also provide climate niches where specialty crops can be produced, including cherries, blueberries, grapes, and nursery plants. With much of the shoreline tree-covered, the forestry and pulp and paper industries are staples of the region's economy.
- tourism revenue continues to increase annually from hunters (\$2.6 billion), recreational boaters (\$2 billion), anglers (\$2.5 billion), and the more than 70 million who visits the region's 10 national parks and hundreds of state and provincial parks
- Despite the immense quantity of water in the lakes, only one percent actually flows out of the system each year; the rest can be considered the gift of the glaciers that created the lakes. Because of this, water will stay in Lake Superior for up to 191 years, 99 years in Lake Michigan, 22 in Lake Huron, 6 in Lake Ontario, and 2.6 years in Lake Erie. Pollution and other impacts on the lakes thus can stay in the lakes' waters for many generations.

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