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GREAT LAKES FOCUS On Water Quality

International Joint Commission — Windsor, Ontario

VOL. 1

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FALL 1974



THE RESERVE MINING CASE: PROMISES, PROMISES

*By Grant J. Merritt, Executive Director
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

It was inevitable that out of the environmental movement there would emerge one case above all others — one classic situation which would contain all of the constituents which any environmental case could have within itself — complex problems of pollution, economics, politics, and law. This is the case of Reserve Mining Company and its discharge of 67,000 tons a day of taconite tailings into Lake Superior.

Five years of battling to end the pollution of Lake Superior by Reserve Mining Company was seemingly culminated April 20, 1974, when federal District Judge Miles Lord ordered the

Reserve Mining Company discharge, Silver Bay Minnesota. (Courtesy Basgen Photo, Duluth)

plant to cease its discharges to the air and water effective at 12:01 a.m. April 21, 1974. Environmentalists rejoiced. But the celebrating was short-lived. Less than 48 hours after the plant was closed, it was ordered re-opened by a hastily convened panel of three judges from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals meeting in a motel room in Springfield, Missouri. The stay of Judge Lord's order has now been further extended.

One thing now at least appears certain: Reserve at long last is going to be forced to recognize its public responsibility and end its dumping of waste materials, including possibly carcinogenic asbestos fibers, into the public air

and water. But the question remains, and it is a crucial question involving public health implication of the gravest magnitude, as to **when** the dumping will cease. Based on the June 4, 1974 decision reached by that panel it is possible that the Reserve plant at Silver Bay, Minnesota, may continue polluting Lake Superior for another three to five years.

The governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin announced June 8, 1974, that both states would appeal the 8th Circuit's stay order to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. Both governors are convinced of the evidence which led to Judge Lord's April 20 ruling and have pledged the full resources of both states to see it upheld.

The governors have been rebuffed; on June 10, the Supreme Court refused to reinstate Judge Lord's order.

How did we get to this point in the first place? It all goes back to 1947 when the original permits were issued to allow Reserve to use Lake Superior as its dumping ground for taconite wastes. Twenty-seven years later, the 8th Circuit judges boldly proclaimed in their June 4 order that allowing such dumping in the first place constituted a "monumental environmental mistake." Actually, the original permits were strongly conditioned and were issued only after the company promised that it would strictly comply with all conditions of the permits and adding that the discharges would pose no problem.

So much for promises. Reserve is now violating virtually all the conditions of its permit, including one which forbade the discharge should it ever threaten public drinking water supplies. There is a continuing pattern on the part of Reserve and its two parent companies, Armco and Republic Steel Corporations. This pattern became painfully apparent during the course of Judge Lord's nine-month trial in Minneapolis which began in August, 1973. The president of Reserve went so far as to admit in open court that his company did mislead the court on the question of the company's so-called "deep pipe" plan. The president accepted the "responsibility but not the blame" for that deception.

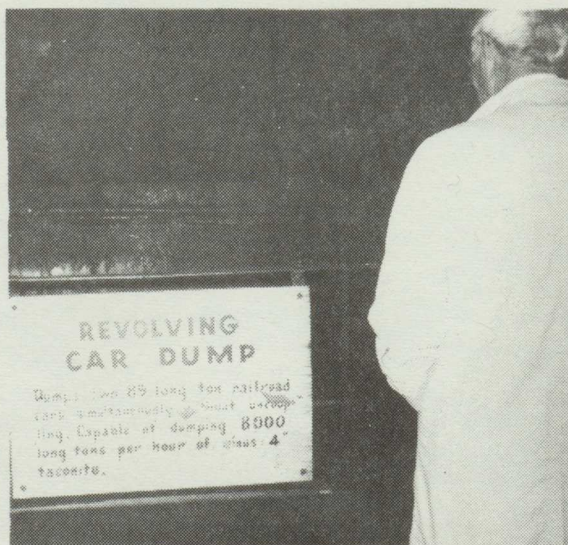
Back to 1947. The permits were issued and the company began to mine and to dump and to foul the air and the lake. In 1956 and 1960 Reserve was allowed to increase its use of water; in effect to increase its dumping of waste tailings. Finally, in the late 1960's citizens became aroused when they saw what was happening to the lake. Led by citizen activists, the true story of Reserve's damage to the lake began to unfold. Mounting citizen pressure to end the dumping finally resulted in government action at both the state and federal levels.

Then, in June 1973, came the dramatic public announcement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the drinking water of Duluth and other north shore communities was contaminated with asbestiform fibers which might potentially cause cancer. A report by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency found that the suspected source of the fibers was the discharge from Reserve Mining Company.

The discovery of millions of these fibers in the water supply of hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists along the shores of Lake Superior was a direct result of the public hearing held by the International Joint Commission in Duluth on December 7, 1972. At that hearing, Mrs. Arlene Lehto, representing the Save Lake Superior Association, suggested the possibility that there could be amphibole fibers in the Reserve tailings. She referred to an article in *Science* magazine describing the discovery that asbestos used in producing rice for the Japanese may be a cancer producing agent. Both the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the National Water Quality Laboratory of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began their investigations as a direct result of this testimony at the IJC hearing in Duluth.

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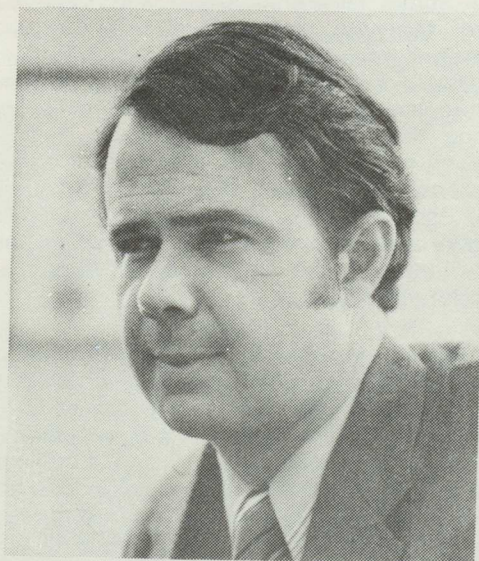
U.S. Commissioner Victor Smith on tour of the Reserve Mining Company facilities, Silver Bay, Minnesota.

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Following the June announcements, citizen pressure mounted to near outrage. Still, the company stuck steadfastly to its entrenched position of being the innocent public benefactor. The company thought it could continue to dodge the question, continue to underline its economic importance to the Silver Bay area, and continue to pour its wastes into Lake Superior in violation of its permits. Judge Lord did everything humanly possible to awaken the company to its public responsibilities; he desperately tried to demonstrate to Reserve that its discharge might damage human health.

But the company refused to listen. Reserve didn't listen, nor did Armco and Republic. Responsible officials of those three companies simply chose to hide behind the vast corporate shell where accountability is so diffuse that not one individual accepts any blame. In corporations the size of Armco and Republic, apparently the buck stops nowhere. That is the way they want it; everyone is safe.

We cannot expect that mentality to change, unfortunately. In light of that hard reality, we must continue to depend upon the outcry of enlightened public opinion to see things right. The Reserve charade is over; it must end. The public knows that, and it is time now for the company to realize that and immediately end its willful pollution.



Grant Merritt, author of the Great Lakes Focus's first Guest Editorial, presented his personal views of the Reserve Mining Case in his feature article. Mr. Merritt was involved with the proceedings against Reserve for several years before he became head of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

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CHRISTIAN HERTER SPEAKS IN DENVER

On October 9, 1974 Christian A. Herter, Jr., Chairman of the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission, spoke in Denver, Colorado. His speech "The IJC, U.S. and Canada and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement," was presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Water Pollution Control Federation.

In his speech Mr. Herter gave a brief history of the Commission's involvement in the questions of Great Lakes water quality, explained the steps leading to the 1972 Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the U.S., summarized progress made under the Agreement, and discussed the Commission's recent report to Governments. He also commented on the roles of those involved in the IJC's water quality activities.

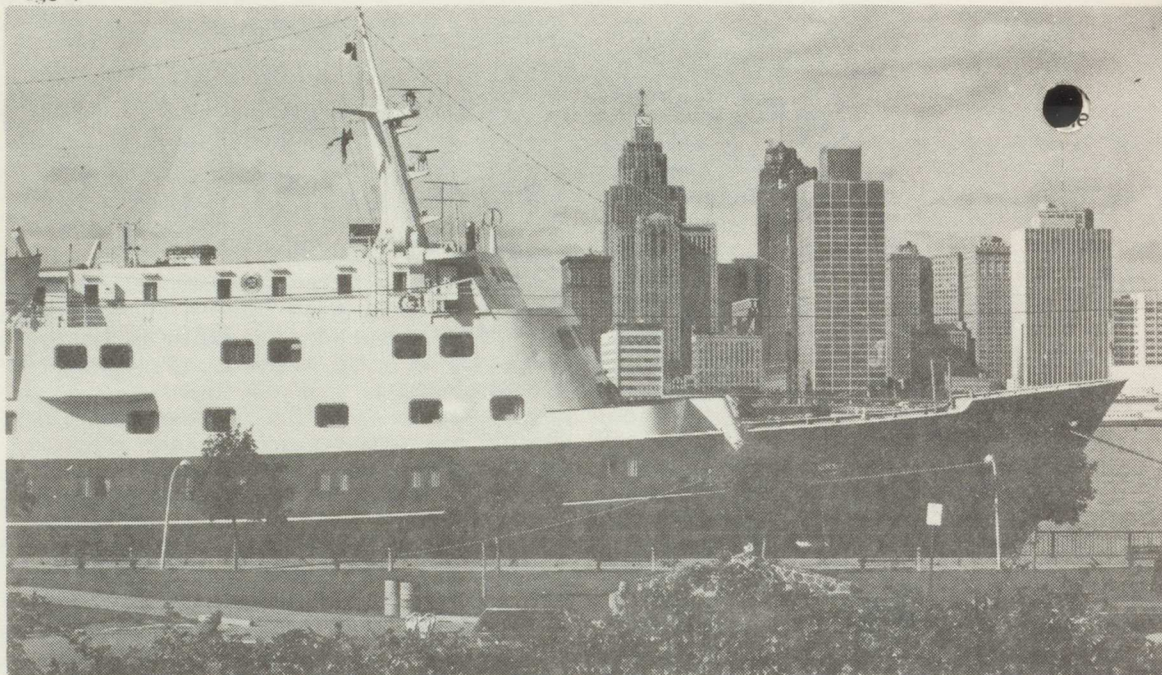
Copies of the full text are available upon request from the IJC Regional Office, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6T3.

Two other recent presentations can also be obtained by writing to the Regional Office. "Binational Abatement of Boundary Water Pollution in the North American Great Lakes, by Charles G. Gunnerson and K. A. Oakley, Director and Associate Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office of the International Joint Commission will be published in "Water Research," the Journal of the International Association on Water Research. "Recent IJC Activities in Water Resources Management" was prepared and presented by Mr. Oakley at the Ontario Industrial Wastes Conference held in June 1974.

FILMS

"Not Man's to Command" is a film about the many problems involved in trying to regulate Great Lakes levels. It is available from the Public Relations Unit, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario.

"Ground Water — America's Buried Treasure" is 13½ minute film available at \$200 per print or \$15 per week rental fee. More information: Natalie P. Holmes, Admin. Sec., Ground Water Council, 221 N. La Salle St., Suite 2026, Chicago, IL 60601.



RIVER VIEW

In May the Regional Office of the International Joint Commission moved to 100 Ouellette Avenue to the eighth floor of a new building overlooking the Detroit River.

Not only is there a view of the impressive Detroit skyline, there are the frequent visits of the M.S. Stella Maris, the first ship to cruise the Great Lakes for several years. The ship is of Greek registry and was brought to this region especially for the cruises.

The Stella Maris cruises began in May, the week of the office move and will end this month. The ship tours the St. Lawrence Seaway, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. Tours next year will be for seven days and will begin at Montreal and Chicago.

NEWS BRIEFS

- The Lake Survey Center, NOAA, prepared a report analyzing flow characteristics of the Detroit River which should be useful in refinement of the loading calculations for the Detroit River and other connecting channels.
- The Working Group on Dredging met in Rochester, N.Y. in July and made an inspection tour of the Rochester Harbor aboard a Coast Guard vessel to inspect proposed disposal sites for polluted dredged material from the Rochester Harbor.
- The Surveillance Subcommittee has prepared preliminary plans for long range surveillance systems for the connecting channels. These plans will expand upon the established surveillance programs and will be a part of the coordinated monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- The States of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have received grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for development of coastal zone management programs. Pennsylvania will during the first year define goals and objectives for its Lake Erie coast and the interrelationships between them and the state's land use programs. Wisconsin will establish coastal zone boundaries and define land and water uses which have a direct impact on coastal waters.
- The *Engineering News Record* reports that the Corps of Engineers is solving its problem of what to do with polluted material dredged from the channels and harbors of the Great Lakes. It is constructing huge settling basins contained within highly engineered dikes designed to trap contaminated solids, form new land, and release the filtered water. The basins will cost \$4 to \$6 million each and are designed to handle anticipated containment of dredged material for the next 10 years. As an example of the total costs of the program, 8 or 9 basins are presently planned for Lake Michigan alone.

- EPA reports the costs of sewage treatment and sewer construction rose almost 12 percent between June 1973 and June 1974.
- The U.S. Hopper Dredge LYMAN of the Buffalo District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will return to Rochester Harbor to resume annual maintenance dredging on Monday, September 30. The dredge will be restoring the depths of the navigation channel which extends from Lake Ontario up the Genesee River for a distance of two miles.
- EPA will soon be taking two major steps into the land use planning area with the creation of a new land use office and the issuance of a land use policy statement. The EPA unit will co-ordinate land use-related programs within EPA and with other federal agencies. The report, "EPA Authority Affecting Land Use", concludes that a need exists to coordinate environmental plans and regulations affecting land use and that EPA has the responsibility and authority to encourage states to do this. It supports the land use bill approved by the Senate in 1973 but defeated by the House this past June, and it is expected to provide ammunition for supporters of federal land use legislation.
- The Canada Centre for Inland Waters has been designated as the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Surface and Ground Water Quality. The Burlington, Ontario Centre will be responsible to W.H.O. for providing scientific data, planning assistance, training programs and technical information on water quality and pollution problems for the benefit of developing nations. The initial designation is for a three year period.

LEGISLATION

The U.S. Supreme Court has placed another restriction on class action suits. Plaintiffs in such suits now must carry the cost of personally notifying all identifiable "fellow victims" of the same alleged action.

Under PL 92-500 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued another set of industrial guidelines. Steel makers will have to reduce their water pollution. New plants must meet federal clean water standards before they start operating. Existing plants must apply "best practicable control technology" by July 1, 1977, and "best available technology economically achievable" by July 1, 1983.

Costs for the 1977 requirements may total about \$145 million in capital spending and \$40 million in increased operating costs. Another \$122.3 and \$12.4 will be spent to meet objectives.

Ottawa is attempting to toughen the Clean Air Act with a set of regulations to reduce and control emissions of lead from secondary smelters. By proposing the regulations, the Federal government shows: 1. it has recognized that the emissions constitute a significant health hazard and 2. that federal supports to provincial authorities in their enforcement of regulations is desirable.

Ontario plants with no air pollution equipment in operation may have to spend \$250,000 or more to meet the proposed standards.

Environmental management in Canada is primarily a provincial responsibility since the provinces have ownership of natural resources within their boundaries and have authority over local works, agriculture, property and most civil rights. Thus, regional planning and developments related to transportation within the provinces, housing, land use, zoning, water supplies, sewerage systems and wastewater treatment, essentially fit into the milieu of provincial decision making.

Federal responsibilities and activities in theory, if not always in practice, are complementary and supportive to provincial plans and actions. However, the international sphere-promotion of Canada's objectives and protection of Canada's environment from pollutants - is Federal. The Federal government can only pledge provincial co-operation on an international basis with provincial agreement.

The Water Quality Agreement of 1972, as an example of international activity, could only come about after Ontario and the Federal government signed their agreement to co-operate in achieving improved Great Lakes water quality.

Legislation dealing with environmental impact studies is expected to be proposed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment this fall. If recommendations are implemented, look for increased burdens on the polluter. Responsibility for performing environmental assessments would fall upon project initiators. Government would enforce compliance with standards and the polluter would bear the capital expenditures involved.

ONTARIO TASK FORCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT REPORT PUBLISHED

An Ontario program with strong international overtones recently began showing results when the Ontario Task Force on the Human Environment published its report on the Province's reactions to the recommendations made by the United Nation's 1972 Stockholm Conference and recommendations growing out of the Man and Resources Conference held in Toronto in 1973.

William Steggles, Chairman of the Task Force and member of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board, explained that the Task Force realized that environmental concern has in the past been viewed as a rich man's luxury, but could not remain that. Governments at all levels must plan for rational uses of land with a stress on preserving the prime agricultural land for food growing. In Canada, 26 acres of food producing land are lost every day to urban development. People generally are beginning to see the limits of our resources and the need to manage them for future generations.

Many of the U.N. recommendations are already being dealt with by legislation which the Province has introduced. However, the Task Force believes that legislation is not enough and advocates developing an overall policy toward

environmental responsibility. Its recommendations include:

- Pursuit of industrial goals to achieve the greatest economic return with the minimum impact on the environment;
- Production of adequate housing suited to social and human needs of people, and performing the related municipal planning;
- Humanizing urban areas and reducing the growth pressures on metropolitan areas;
- Development of procedures to ease land shortages and encourage better use of transportation systems;
- Provision of sufficient individual mobility for social development (including social and recreational facilities access);
- Assurance that land suitable for food development will be maintained and enhanced;
- Development of clean supplies of energy;
- Conservation practices, particularly for energy, to avoid wasteful business practices.

Implementing such a program will require great cooperation among governments. It will also require a program of public education which will guide people toward thinking in terms of conserving resources for the future through limiting their use today.

ONTARIO HYDRO FUTURE PLANS: ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATION FACILITIES

A July 11, 1974 statement by the Honourable Darcy McKeough, Minister of Energy, outlined the plans of the Ontario Government and Ontario Hydro regarding the generation and distribution of electrical energy throughout the Province of Ontario.

Ontario Hydro's report number 566 SP, "Long Range Planning of the Electric Power System," indicates the possible requirements and location of generating stations and bulk power transmission to supply loads in various regions of the Province to 1993. Because of the many unknowns relating to load growth, technological development, and environmental and socio-economic considerations, the alternative plans shown are conceptual and general in nature.

After an initial period of public dialogue, Ontario intends to submit the report for public hearings and review in terms of environmental effects, socio-economic factors, load growth, system reliability, interconnection and power pooling, economic analysis governing investment decisions, fuel and heavy water supplies, and operation and maintenance considerations. The exact mechanisms for these hearings will be the subject of further study. It is anticipated that the hearings will begin in late 1974 or early

The magnitude of power needs projections for Ontario is great. The plans of the agencies on the United States side of the border are believed to be of an even higher order of magnitude on a per capita basis. Energy needs, power plant siting, and energy sources as they impact on water quality are under study by the two reference groups and the Research Advisory Board.

COMMENT CORNER

This space is reserved for you, the reader. Send your comments, suggestions, questions or (?) to: The Editor, *Great Lakes Focus*, at the IJC Regional Office, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6T3. Are you planning a conference; have you read a book or an article you believe some of our readers might be interested in; have a problem they may be able to assist you in solving . . . a publication you cannot locate? Maybe the Comment Corner can help.

WINDSOR'S FOCUS ON ... THE LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

By Nancy Flowers
Information Director

The Lake Michigan Federation is a Chicago-based conservation organization. Its principal activity is to organize (through research and meetings) and express citizen priorities on public policy affecting the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan in particular. Occasionally the Federation serves as the voice of its membership of citizen groups and individuals in the region; more frequently, it facilitates grass roots public participation by informing its members on issues.

Water pollution control, nuclear power production, land use, erosion control, industrial pollution, waste water management, power plant siting, energy alternatives and operation of government agencies are among the activities in which the Federation promotes citizen participation. The full-time staff monitors issues and keeps its membership alerted to opportunities for expressing public priorities.

Organized in response to citizen interest in a group whose focus was protection of Lake Michigan, the Federation is in its fourth year of operation. Program development has evolved to a four-pronged approach including 1) providing an educational-informational service 2) stimulating citizen action on issues affecting Lake Michigan 3) influencing the decision-making process of public agencies; and 4) "watch-dogging" in the public interest.

Voluntary cooperation of member groups and individuals involves people of the region in

Federation activities. Because it serves as an information clearinghouse, the Federation opens its library and files to the public. In addition as further means to inform the public, the Federation sponsors public meetings, provides information to media persons, and services of materials, speakers and visual aids to educators.

Citizen action on issues important to the lake is stimulated through "alerts" which identify critical decisions, outline alternatives, and specify the opportunities for input on the issues. Federation-conducted citizen training workshops help cultivate effective participants in the decision-making process. The monthly newsletter keeps the issues involved in policy questions before the organization's membership.

Representing the public interest, the Federation testifies at hearings, in legislative committees and at proceedings of government agencies. The federation also initiates changes in public policy, analyzes implications of public and private action affecting the lake, and serves as a consultant for long-range planning.

Federation staff monitors permit hearings, provides citizen training opportunities to help citizens monitor public action and cooperates with a network of organizations and individuals involved in issues.

For additional information about the organization or its activities, contact Lake Michigan Federation, 53 West Jackson, Chicago, Ill. 60604 or phone 312-427-5121.

HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

This year's rainfall has again been heavy, so lake level regulation has been one of the primary emphases of the Commission since its April meeting.

Nine years ago when the levels were extremely low, the International Great Lakes Levels Board was appointed by the Commission to determine what, if anything, could be done to further regulate lake levels. This year, when we are experiencing a period of record high levels, the Board issued its report, the subject of a series of 13 hearings to be held this fall throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

Monday, October 21, 1974 — 10:00 a.m.
McGregor Memorial Conference Center,
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

Tuesday, October 22, 1974 — 9:30 a.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall,
100 N. Jefferson Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Wednesday, October 23, 1974 — 2:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Centennial Room, Municipal Library
South City, St. Louis, Missouri

Friday, October 25, 1974 — 3:30 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, City Hall,
Thunder Bay, Ontario

Wednesday, November 6, 1974 — 10:00 a.m.

Ramada Inn, 2967 Henry Street,
Muskegon, Michigan

Thursday, November 7, 1974 — 3:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Ramada Inn — Airport, 6401 South 13th Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Friday, November 8, 1974 — 3:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel, Great Hall,
505 West Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota

Monday, November 18, 1974 — 10:00 a.m.

National Aeronautics & Space Administration,
Lewis Research Center Auditorium,
2100 Brook Park Road, (near Hopkins Airport),
Cleveland, Ohio

Tuesday, November 19, 1974 — 10:00 a.m.

O'Hare International Tower Hotel,
O'Hare International Airport,
Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, November 20, 1974 — 10:00 a.m.

Flagship Rochester, Stuart Room
70 State Street, Rochester, New York

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Thursday, November 21, 1974 — 3:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Board of Control Chambers, City Hall
Hamilton, Ontario

Friday, November 22, 1974 — 2:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Owen Sound, Ontario

Friday, December 6, 1974 — 2:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.

Montreal, Quebec
(location to be announced)

The Commission is holding the hearings to receive public views on its Board's findings. Its principal finding was that there were no economically feasible means of regulating Lakes Michigan and Huron and there were no major control programs for the other lakes which would be economically feasible. The report did suggest a relatively small but important control facility could be provided in the Niagara River which would be feasible and would provide benefits to Lake Erie during periods of abnormally high levels such as exist presently in the lakes.

Persons who wish to make presentations should, if at all possible, provide 30 copies of the written statement; 8 copies for the Commission and its two Secretaries; the remainder for press in attendance.

For information concerning the report's distribution points nearest you, telephone or write to the Commission's Regional Office: Information Officer, 100 Ouellette Ave. Suite 800, Windsor, Ont. N9A 6T3, (519) 256-7821 or (313) 963-9041. Be sure to put the words Lake Levels on the envelope or mention them to the receptionist.

BOOKSHELF

The Algae Bowl, By John R. Vallentyne is now available from Information Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9. It is a book for nonspecialists about lakes and how they are affected by nutrients derived from human activities. A list of terms and definitions, suggestions for additional reading and an appendix with an updating of events to 1974 are also included. 189 pages. \$3.00 in Canada; \$3.60 elsewhere.

The Use of Land: A Citizens' Policy Guide to Urban Growth can be ordered from the Thomas Y. Crowell Company at \$3.75 a copy. The report was prepared by a Task Force on Land Use and Urban Growth and sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. In the report's 300 - plus pages are considered such problems as the inevitability of growth, the numerous ways to deal with it, conservation, and the role of the citizen.

The *Great Lakes Quality Board's 1973 Annual Report* to the International Joint Commission issued June 7, 1974, is already out of print. Copies of the 115-page report are available through the National Technical Information Service (5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22151) at \$4.50 for paper and \$1.45 for microfiche. A Technical Note summary of the report is available from the IJC Regional Office.

Should Trees Have Standing, by Christopher D. Stone proposes that natural objects have legal rights. Professor Stone presents provocative arguments for expanding the concept of standing to sue in environmental protection cases. The U.S. Supreme Court's opinions in the *Mineral King* — Disney — Sierra Club suit are included in full. William Haufman, Inc., One First Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022 published this book now available at \$2.95.

Metroplitan Life has prepared an unusual multimedia teaching aid called "*Exploring Your Environmental Choices*," to help 7th- to 12th-graders identify the issues and the decision-making processes and suggest the viewpoints and the trade-offs to be considered. The kit includes a tape made up of a number of segments, transparencies, teaching guide, and family participation leaflets and costs \$18.50. For more information, write to Environmental Choices, Metropolitan Life, P.O. Box 232, New York, N.Y. 10010.

"*Energy Crisis*" is a 59-page teacher's guide and handbook developed by the Oregon State Department of Education. It contains suggestions for home and school activities for all grade levels through community college, includes a glossary of terms and a reference reading list. Available on Microfiche for \$.65 or Paper Copy for \$3.29 through ERIC Document Reproduction Service, P.O. Drawer O, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

"*Environmental Exchange*" is a 21-page workbook developed by the President's Environmental Merit Awards Program. Published by EPA, it is available free from regional EPA offices, Public Affairs Division.

1973 "*Report to the President and to the Council on Environmental Quality*" from the Citizens Advisory Committee on EQ — 48 pages, \$1.05 from G. P. O. Washington D.C. 20402.

AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES

*Land use Activities Reference Group
Pat Chubb, IJC Windsor*

Pollution from land drainage sources has long been a recognized source of water pollution in the Great Lakes. Forestry, agriculture, urban development, and a variety of other land activities and practices contribute; but how much and how can their pollution be controlled?

The Water Quality Agreement of 1972 recognized the significance of land use pollution, and as a first step to eventual understanding and control of this pollution, governments requested the International Joint Commission to investigate the problems and recommend solutions, with estimates of their social and economic cost.

The IJC responded by establishing the Reference Group on Pollution of the Great Lakes from Land Use Activities. It is a bi-national group selected to provide scientific expertise to direct intensive detailed investigations into the problems of quantifying and controlling the non-point (area) source pollution in the Great Lakes Basin. The Reference Group is composed of 20 representatives, supported by an additional 50 technical experts.

The Reference Group has been active in defining the objectives of the study, and developing a detailed plan of study. To answer the questions posed by the IJC, the Reference group study must provide the following:

- 1) The relative significance of the specific sources and practices which yield pollutants of concern in boundary waters.
- 2) The degree to which these pollutants are transmitted from sources along rivers to boundary waters.
- 3) The extent of impact of transmitted pollutants on boundary waters relative to point source inputs now, and in view of trends in point source waste treatment.
- 4) Realistic recommendations, based on the information output of the study, on management and control of land pollution.

The Detailed Study Plan developed by the Group and approved by the Commission, defines four basic tasks:

"Task A" is devoted to the collection and assessment of existing management and research information, and to the critical analysis of implications of potential recommendations. Recommendations for early actions which should be taken to reduce pollution from selected land use activities have been forwarded to Governments by the Commission.

"Task B" is the preparing of a land use inventory from existing data to characterize land use within the basin. Trends in land use patterns and practices will then be analyzed so that a model to forecast future impact of land development on the Great Lakes can be developed.

"Task C" is the detailed survey of selected watersheds to accurately determine the sources of pollutants, their relative significance, and the assessment of the degree of transmission of pollutants to boundary waters. Three Canadian and three U.S. watersheds have been selected for these studies; and work will be initiated shortly.

"Task D" will obtain supplementary information on the inputs of materials to the boundary waters, their effect on water quality, and their significance on the waters in the future, and under alternative management schemes. Studies to determine the input of sediment to the lakes from shoreline erosion, the extent of transport of nutrients and selected contaminants into the lake system from tributaries have begun.

The full Reference Group study will terminate in 1978. Information and recommendations generated by the PLUARG studies will be of maximum importance in controlling these inputs in a rational and effective manner.



During the PLUARG September tour of study sites, U.S. Chairman, Norman Berg, examines corn grown on fields irrigated with secondary effluent.

PUBLIC'S ROLE IN NPDES PERMITS EXPANDED

PEOPLE

EPA issued amendments to regulations on July 24 expanding public notification requirements. Now interested persons are to be informed of EPA's intention to approve, deny or modify an application or to issue a permit with a variance from the effluent limitations.

Hearings are to be held on an application if the public shows "significant interest" or a regional administrator determines useful information could result. Hearings may be requested on a proposed permit for 30 days after notice of intent to issue. A permit will become effective at the close of the 30-day period if a hearing is not requested. Further, employees and consultants of a permit applicant must be made available (by the applicant) for cross-examination at the hearing.

Dr. A. F. Bartsch has been named the new Chairman of the United States Section of the Great Lakes Research Advisory Board. He is the Director of the National Environmental Research Center at Corvallis, Oregon. Having over 20 years in the federal water pollution control field, plus state government and international experience, Dr. Bartsch knows the bureaucracies as well as the technologies involved in his new post.

Congratulations to *Dr. A. R. LeFeuvre*, the new Director of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

James P. Bruce, CCIW's former Director, has been appointed to head the Inland Waters Directorate of Canada's Department of the Environment. He has also accepted the Canadian Chairmanship of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES

Write to the Editor, Great Lakes Focus, IJC Regional Office, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9A 6T3.

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