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Fourth Progress Report to the International Joint Commission

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

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FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT

TO THE

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

October 1974
Gentlemen:

Transmitted herewith is the Fourth Progress Report of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

This report covers the activities of the Board and its working committees and groups from April 1974 to September 1974.

Respectfully submitted,

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Canadian Section

Francis T. Mayo
Chairman
United States Section
GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

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GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

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GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT TO IJC

April to September 1974

ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings

The Board has held three meetings, April 3, June 4 and 5, and September 5, 1974, in the period covered by this report.

2. Operation Of The Board

During the last six months the following changes in the Board's membership have taken place: Mr. J.P. Bruce, Chairman, Canadian Section replacing Dr. A.T. Prince and Dr. R.H. Briceland replacing Mrs. Mary Lee Leahy as the Illinois representative.

The operation of the Board has been more formalized through the adoption of a set of "Procedures for Meetings".

The Committee Structure, set up to expedite the work of the Board, has been implemented. The "Terms of Reference for the Implementation Committee" (Attachment I) revised by the Chairmen, and Mr. MacCallum and Mr. Hendrickson, were adopted at the September 5th Meeting of the Board and are hereby submitted for consideration of the Commission.

The important work of the Water Quality Objectives Subcommittee is well underway with a view to having specific recommendations for revised and additional water quality objectives in time for the next Annual Report. A working group on data quality control is being developed, arising out of the Ad Hoc Committee on this
ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings

The Board held three meetings: April 2, June 1, and August 3rd, September 2nd, 1974. A report covering these meetings is attached.

2. Operation of the Board

During the last six months the following changes have been made in the Board's membership: E. V. Bruce, Chairman, was succeeded by J. C. Biggar. Section Representatives A.T. Prince and K. K. F. Stuart resigned.

The operation of the Board has been moreatorium during the last six months. The Board, however, has been exploring ways to develop additional sources of revenue to meet the Board's financial requirements. The Board has explored the possibility of forming a subsidiary or a joint venture to develop these sources of revenue.

The Committee on the Water Quality (the Water Quality Subcommittee) has been active in the development of a comprehensive program to improve water quality. The Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss and develop recommendations for improving water quality.

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3. Annual Report On Great Lakes Water Quality

The 1973 Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality was submitted to the Commission in April 1974. A total of 2,000 copies of the report were printed and distributed. The IJC offices in Washington and Ottawa, received 300 copies, the Board members requested and received some 650 copies and the remainder were distributed to libraries, municipalities, industries, newspapers, etc., in the Great Lakes Basin. The report was also placed in National Technical Information Service in the U.S. where interested persons may purchase a copy. The demand for this report indicates that future printing should be in the order of 3,000 copies.

The Water Quality Board at its Twelfth Meeting suggested two alternative schemes for reporting to the Commission. These involved a single Annual Report submitted in October, or alternatively two reports, one in April concerning the remedial programs and one in October on water quality. These alternatives were considered by the Commission at its July meeting and a third alternative was proposed. The compromise suggested by the Commission was that one Annual Report be submitted in July. The Board and its Committees have thoroughly reviewed the alternatives and, at the Thirteenth Meeting, September 5, 1974, agreed to adopt the proposal of the Commission to submit future Annual Reports in July.

4. Upper Lakes Reference Study

The Detailed Plan for "Study of Pollution Problems of Lake Huron and Lake Superior" prepared by the Reference Group was accepted at the April meeting and recommended for transmission to the Commission. The Study is generally progressing well.
5. **Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Study**

The Board accepted the Detailed Study Plan of the Reference Group in March noting that some study specifications needed to be identified in greater detail. It was agreed that this would be done when the additional funds requested for the U.S. portion of the programs were released by the Office of Management and Budget.

In April, the Board reviewed the Group's Recommendations for "Early Action to Minimize Pollution from Land Use Activities" and prepared its own recommendation in support of these for joint transmission to the Commission. The Commission subsequently transmitted these to Governments.

In order to keep up to date with progress in various jurisdictions on this topic, it is essential that an effective means be found to ensure feedback from the Governments on action taken in response to these recommendations.

The Board endorsed the Group's request that a Project Coordinator be appointed for the Pilot Watershed Studies being undertaken in Task "C" of the Detailed Study Plan. This Regional Office appointment is being filled as a Canadian position. Tentative acceptance of the position by a U.S. citizen, who is highly qualified, is the status at the time of preparation of this report.

6. **Great Lakes Water Quality Surveillance**

The development of a more fully coordinated surveillance program for the lakes and interconnecting channels is under active consideration by the Surveillance Subcommittee and the IJC Regional Office. A complete inventory of all existing surveillance and monitoring programs in the Great Lakes System is being developed as the basis upon which to structure the IJC Surveillance Program.
The board endorsed the report of the Group of Experts on the "Policy on Land Use in Urban Areas." This report was prepared by the Interregional Committee on Land Use, and its recommendations were taken into consideration by the Committee on Land Use.

In order to keep up with progress in various fields, the board endorsed the report of the Group of Experts on the "Policy on Land Use in Urban Areas." This report was prepared by the Interregional Committee on Land Use, and its recommendations were taken into consideration by the Committee on Land Use.

The development of a more fully coordinated surveillance system for urban and rural areas was recommended by the Interregional Committee on Land Use. A comprehensive study of all existing surveillance and monitoring programs was conducted to better understand the processes involved.
The Board has accepted the Surveillance Subcommittee's recommendation to concentrate on specific areas each year, in addition to special problem areas. In the coming year this will be Lake Erie and the Detroit River. This will permit concentration of analysis capability to the extent needed for more definitive conclusions on changes in water quality.

7. **Remedial Programs**

Systems are being developed directed toward the obtaining of compatible information to assess the effectiveness of industrial waste discharge remedial measures, to complement the now reasonably effective system of assessing progress in providing needed municipal waste treatment facilities.

8. **Localized Areas**

A draft report on "Localized Areas", which will not meet the water quality objectives in the short term, designated by the various jurisdictions has been compiled by the IJC Regional Office and transmitted to the Board for review and comment. Problems in establishing agreed upon definitions and consistent procedures for designation of localized areas have not been fully resolved.

9. **Vessel Waste Regulations**

The Board has restated its concern that compatible regulations for the control of vessel wastes have not been adopted by Canada and the U.S. The initial recommendation that these regulations be based on a "no-discharge" policy still represents the Board's majority position. A complete inventory of the "pump-out facilities" available to implement this policy is being prepared under the direction of the Remedial Programs Subcommittee.
The Board has accepted the Surveillance Subcommitte's recommendation to concentrate on specific areas each year in addition to special projects. In the coming year this will be done through the Detection Reset. This will permit concentration of minimal capabilities to the extent needed for more realistic concentration on changes in water quality.

1. Regional Program

Spersons will develop regional criteria for the utility of comparable information to assess the effectiveness of laboratory methods, including laboratory measurements to demonstrate efficacy of different methods in producing meaningful results.

2. Local Area

A new report on "Local Area Areas" which will not mean the water quality, applications in the report. Furthermore, the reports in various publications, including the IC and the Regional Office, may have material on these areas for review and comment. Programs in these areas are those which show potential and commercial operations. For certification of local areas have not been fully reviewed.

3. Asset Waste Regulation

The Board has noted the concern that comparable regulations for the control of waste water have not been subject to Canada and the U.S. The initial recommendation that these regulations be based on a "no-clean-up" policy will require the Board's wastewater position. A committee has been established to define the report to prepare proposals under the direction of the Regional Programs Subcommitte.
10. Asbestos In Lake Superior

The Board has maintained an active interest in the problem of asbestos and asbestos-like fibres in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Research Advisory Board's report "Asbestos in the Great Lakes Basin, with Emphasis on Lake Superior", which was edited and prepared for distribution by the IJC Regional Office, is being reviewed by Board members prior to endorsement for transmission to the International Joint Commission.

11. Water Quality Objectives

The Board and its Committees have discussed the problem of the uses to which Great Lakes waters will be put so that water quality objectives will be set to meet these uses. While complete agreement has not been reached, consensus appears to be developing that the Agreement leads to the conclusion that the Governments intend to provide for and protect the highest uses (protection of aquatic life and meeting the highest quality standards for raw drinking water) at all locations outside mixing zones and localized areas. The Commission may wish to comment on this. The Water Quality Objectives Subcommittee is also trying to define consistent criteria for "mixing zones".

12. Working Group on Dredging

Liaison between the International Working Group on Dredging and the Board has been established through the IJC Regional Office. The First Report (April 1974) of the Working Group's review of existing dredging practices, programs, laws and regulations, in accordance with Annex 6 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has been distributed to the Board and Reference Group.
13. Potential for Spills of Oil and Other Hazardous Materials

The Board reviewed the accidental grounding of the "Imperial Sarnia" on April 15th, 1974 and resulting spill of oil on the St. Lawrence River. In order to make appropriate recommendations to the Commission the Board is attempting to become more fully informed of activities being undertaken by the Canadian Ministry of Transport and the U.S. Coast Guard to minimize the potential for spills (in accord with Annex 5). In addition, the effectiveness of the Joint Contingency Plan to satisfactorily respond to and reduce damage which may result from any accidents which do occur is under continuing review.

14. U.S. Corps of Engineers' Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accord with provisions of the 1972 Amendments to the U.S. Federal Water Pollution Control Act (PL 92-500) developed plans for a $5 million Lake Erie Wastewater Management Study. The Board heard a presentation by Corps of Engineers representatives on the Study Plan and offered suggestions concerning modifications to the plan in order to make it complementary to ongoing IJC and agency activities. Canadian members of the Board expressed concern that recommendations coming out of the study, if contrary to IJC recommendations might have adverse effects upon cleanup programs in these boundary waters, and agreed to explore ways in which Canadian agencies and specialists might relate to the study program.

The Board agreed to have the Implementation Committee and its Subcommittees explore with the Corps, ways in which Corps staff in the course of carrying out its study could assist in the tasks of the Board. Further guidance from the Commission on this matter will be requested.
The Board recommends the occupant:1. the "Impartial

Scientist" on April 17th, 1974 and recognizing that all of the 17.4

removal River. In order to make appropriate recommendations to

the Commission the Board is submitting to present more fully in this

message of activities presented under section of the Canadian Ministry of Transport

and the R.D. Coast Guard to minimize the efforts of any single

joint coordination plan to satisfactorily reduce to improve the

waters may result from any accident which also to water

contaminating dangers.

1.8. Coarse of Estimated Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to account with preservation of

the 1973 recommendations to the U.S. Federal Water Pollution Control Act

(FL 25-500) development plans for a 50 million cubic feet per second

management study. The Board needs a presentation of Corps of

Engineers representatives on the study plan and other agencies' suggestions

concerning modifications to the plan in order to make it comprehensive.

They are suggested and would be accepted as modifications to the

Practical river conservation. It is recommended that the

River proposals to which Canadas has no objection. They are

abandoned in these proposals are proposed to make to an extent to

explore more with Canadas cooperation and specifically with

forces to the study problems.

The Board agrees to have the Implementation Committee and the

supervisory services under the direction of the study group of the

course of studies and the study can be made in the case of

the Board. Further guidance from the Commission on this matter

will be requested.
Great Lakes Water Quality Board

COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Proposed Terms of Reference

Under the direction of the Board, the Implementation Committee will assist the Board in assessing progress in implementing the Agreement as follows:

1. Prepare a concise annual report to the Board highlighting problem areas where progress is considered inadequate and providing recommendations for remedial actions and draft summary and recommendations.

2. Review and evaluate for Board consideration subcommittee reports on progress being made to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. This will require integration of information on the status of remedial programs from the Subcommittee on Remedial Programs, on the present state of water quality from the Surveillance Subcommittee, and on the appropriateness of existing and proposed water quality objectives from the Water Quality Objectives Subcommittee.

3. Assist the Board in assessing the effectiveness of the Agreement and the remedial programs under the Agreement in achieving the water quality objectives.

4. Respond to specific questions related to the Implementation of the Agreement which may, from time to time, be referred to the Committee by the Board.

5. Provide general direction to the Subcommittees on Water Quality Objectives, Remedial Programs, and Surveillance. This will include recommending to the Board the approval of terms of reference, schedules of reporting and, from time to time, the referral of specific questions from the Board.

6. In the exercise of its responsibilities, the Implementation Committee shall make maximum use of the technical and administrative resources of the Regional Office.

Membership: The Committee should be composed of Board members or their alternates and membership should be limited to four U. S. and four Canadian, representing the two Federal governments and the States and Provinces on the Board. A single Chairman, rather than U. S. and Canadian Co-chairmen, should be appointed. Provision should be made for annual rotation of the Chairmanship, and of membership as desired, particularly for the State members.