WHERE’S MY FOCUS?

Many of you may ask that question next spring if you do not return the form on the back inside page of this issue. Future issues will be sent only to people who express interest in receiving them. A completely new mailing list will be generated from returned forms.

Our mailing list has grown from 2,500 to nearly 15,000 names since Volume I, Issue I was published in the fall of 1974. It is now time to test whether everyone who gets Focus wants to continue receiving it.

If your interests have changed, tell us how the publication should be modified to be more useful to you. We also hope you will send us your new addresses and titles.

It has been most gratifying to have heard from a large number of you. Though established to serve the Great Lakes Basin population, Focus is now read on every continent except Antarctica because someone asked to be on the mailing list. Individuals and groups within the Great Lakes Basin often write or telephone to tell us of changes of address or to request being added to the mailing list. Multiple requests exhaust printed copies within a few months. These kinds of communications tell us that Focus serves a purpose and meets a need. But how many of the recipients we have not heard from really want the publication and use it?

When we planned Focus in 1974, we attempted to design it for several audiences and purposes. We wanted to provide technical material for engineers and scientists, management information for decision makers, general interest material for citizen groups and news for all readers. Each issue’s challenge was to have a little something for everyone. Our present format evolved from reader feedback along with our changing perception of readers’ needs.

As with any such publication, Focus carries articles about its sponsor. We always have items about the International Joint Commission and its organizations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. What these organizations plan and do is important to board and group members who are participating. Through Focus we hope readers better understand how such activities affect them now and may affect them in the future.

The editor writes most of the material about Agreement activities and compiles the remainder by reviewing information sent to the Great Lakes Regional Office. Over a three month period that means reading many journals, magazines, newsletters, news releases from Agreement jurisdictions, newspapers and reports.

By-lined articles are sometimes contributed or solicited. Often we track progress in solving specific problems of public interest. For example, you may remember seeing numerous “Briefs” and short articles on PCBs, and several “Law and the Courts” items on the regulation of toxic and hazardous substances.

Perhaps you would like to have Focus follow up some item of particular interest to you. Maybe you have suggestions for future articles, would write one or could provide the name of an organization or individual with special expertise which you believe would be of interest to other readers. If so, write your suggestion on the form inside the back cover.

Don’t be one who asks, “Where’s my Focus?”
TALK TO PLUARG

Seventeen public consultation panels of up to twenty people have met three times and are preparing their reports to the Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group. (See Focus 3, Issue 2 for program overview.) Though many individuals and groups have presented briefs to the Canadian panels at public meetings and had opportunity to make statements during the United States panel meetings, you or your group may not have been able to do so yet.

Don’t put it off or give up. PLUARG still would like to hear from you.

The panels have been given basic information about potential sources of non-point pollution. They have been asked to identify critical issues, suggest practical remedial measures, define constraints which could block the implementation of such measures and suggest how to remove such constraints. Would you like to do the same? Write to the IJC Great Lakes Regional Office, PLUARG Information Officers, and they will make sure PLUARG knows what you think. Keep a copy for yourself so that you can use it if you decide to prepare a statement for the IJC hearings late in 1978. You will probably want a copy of PLUARG’s final report to the Commission so that you can see if PLUARG’s recommendations are similar to your own.

Following are some additional questions you might think about and relate to one or more of these or other potential non-point pollution sources: urban development practices and drainage, agricultural practices and drainage, extractive areas, forestry, recreation, shoreline landfilling (including dredging), shoreline and riverbank erosion, atmospheric fallout, septic tanks, deep well disposal, solid waste management and transportation.

1. How do the above contribute to eutrophication and/or environmental health problems?
2. Do you favor structural or nonstructural solutions?
3. Do you believe that the technology exists to solve the problem? If not, what is needed and who should do it and pay for it?
4. Identify the issues that may be difficult to overcome in formulating a solution or its implementation. What groups are associated with the various positions?
5. Are there some state or provincial goals (regional goals, local goals) that could be met through the PLUARG effort?
6. What are possible roadblocks to agreement on a remedial package at the state or provincial level?
7. What sanctions could be applied if a jurisdiction fails to do its share to solve non-point pollution?
8. One official of a local government in a mid-Atlantic state poses these questions about implementation of measures to remedy particular non-point problems:
   a) Does the preferred implementation vehicle exist now, or must it be created?
   b) Can another approach be taken?
   c) Is the preferred vehicle politically acceptable?
   d) If enabling legislation is needed, can it be enacted?
   e) Will the vehicle be acceptable to the public?
9. What financing package could be put together? Who pays for what? When is it paid? How is it paid? What is the economic effect of this? The environmental effect?
10. What funding sources are available for further Great Lakes water quality planning: by states or provinces? Local government? What funding sources are available for implementing remedial measures?
11. Communications with all concerned parties is essential if the non-point pollution problem is to be solved. What do you suggest regarding communications about the specific problems and possible solutions?

If you can do so now, take the time to respond to any or all of the questions. If not, save this issue of Focus and review the questions when you read PLUARG’s report to the IJC. If you wish to request that report, write to the Editor.

When you respond to the questions, you may respond anonymously, but please be certain to write the city of your residence on your response. We want to be sure your ideas reach all PLUARG members, but particularly the state or provincial representative from your region.

CITIZENS EXPENSES TO BE PAID

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has decided to try an experiment in compensating people’s costs of participating in development of regulations to ban PCBs. The compensation could cover reasonable attorney’s fees, expert witness fees and other expenses associated with appearing at public meetings or providing comments.

The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 authorizes compensation to persons who will contribute substantially to resolving rulemaking issues and could not otherwise afford to participate. (Taken from December 1, 1977 Environmental Health Newsletter).
GETTING INTO LAKE MICHIGAN

It may be too cold for swimming in Lake Michigan, but it's the right time to plunge into the many issues that affect its water quality. It's not too early to decide what we expect from Lake Michigan. Can it be a swimming pool and a waste sink? Can we be assured that its waters will continue to serve us as a drinking water source, swimming pool, fish habitat, transportation route, solvent for industrial and municipal wastes or coolant?

Four groups of 25 people will share intensive faculty-conducted sessions on technological, economic, political and social aspects of water quality in Lake Michigan. The purpose of the sessions is to train the participants so they can take effective action themselves and can educate others to be productively involved in shaping the ecological future of the Lake Michigan basin.

The 2-year program is funded by the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare-Office of Education, and co-ordinated by the Calumet Campus of Purdue University. Cooperating are Lake Michigan Federation, the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, and faculty members from other academic institutions.

This Interstate Water Quality Training Program was initiated in November, 1977. The five major organizations involved have already begun to develop the curriculum and the methodology which they will use to increase the knowledge of the 100 individuals in all aspects of Lake Michigan water quality. Through those trained people, the planners expect to advance their service to the lake basin community.

Training will be designed to expand the learning process and fit the needs of existing programs such as Coastal Zone, 208 Water Quality planning and management/regulatory efforts to control solid wastes, toxic substances and air pollution. Sessions will promote the active participation of the selected individuals to raise the priority of projects and programs affecting Lake Michigan water quality in the consciousness (and consciences) of legislators, regulatory agencies, special interests and the public at large.

Materials developed will be made available to others as well as the participants. Write to the individuals listed in the last paragraph if you would like to be informed of the availability and costs of training materials as they are prepared.

The selection of the participants is crucial to the success of the program. They must be highly motivated individuals representative of the varied interests of the regional communities. Representatives of industry, business, agriculture, community and citizen groups, will be asked to share in the selection, education, action, and evaluation process.

Would you like to be one of the 100 people or to suggest someone else? Your questions and suggestions will be welcomed by: Tom Sherrard, Project Director or Elaine Kaplan, Coordinator, at the Purdue University Calumet Campus, Hammond, IN. 46323 (Phone: 219-844-0520 Ext. 355), and by Richard Robbins, Executive Director of the Lake Michigan Federation, 53 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL. 60604 (phone: 312-427-5121).

OPEN LAKE SURVEILLANCE

The Canada Centre for Inland Waters annually performs open lake surveillance activities on the Great Lakes. This past year the Centre monitored both Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The program partly supports the needs of the Surveillance Subcommittee of the Water Quality Board for preparing information used in its annual assessment of water quality.
In mid-October, Len Yust, Secretary to the Surveillance Subcommittee of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board, went along on the eighth of nine cruises planned for Lake Ontario to observe the procedures and conditions experienced when sampling. Ninety-four stations were sampled for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, chlorophyll, organic carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen, zooplankton, phytoplankton and microbiology. The operation lasted four days and three nights.

This series of cruises, along with those of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, will aid the Governments to understand the long range response of all the Great Lakes to remedial programs and help diagnose new problems that may arise.

**MERCURY LEVELS DECREASE IN ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FISH AND SEDIMENT**

Mercury levels in fish from the St. Lawrence River and in sediment downstream from the City of Cornwall have decreased since 1970, the year Environment Ontario's industrial pollution control program went into effect, according to "Concentrations of Mercury in Sediments and Fish in the St. Lawrence River, 1975", a report now available from the Ministry of the Environment's southeastern regional office at 133 Dalton Street in Kingston, Ontario.

The report states that reductions in mercury loadings from two Cornwall industries, Canadian Industries Limited and Domtar Fine Papers Limited, have lead to this decline.

In 1970, elevated mercury levels in sediment were traced from the source in Cornwall to about 13 miles downstream of the city. The most recent data confirm that the contaminated zone has been substantially reduced to about 7 miles.

The 1975 study showed that common size classes of pumpkinseed, black crappie, bullhead, yellow perch (up to 12 inches), bass (up to 14 inches), and pike (up to 18 inches) on the average contained less than 0.5 ppm of mercury and are acceptable for consumption on a regular basis. Larger yellow perch, pike and bass contained somewhat higher levels of mercury but are still suitable for restricted consumption. Only walleye greater than 18 inches were considered to be totally unacceptable for consumption.

**DBCP — ANOTHER CHEMICAL SCARE?**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a halt to the sale and use of DBCP (dibromochloropropane), a pesticide used to control worms, because the chemical presents possible hazards to the public and persons who work in its manufacture or application.

Dow Chemical and Shell Chemical companies in the United States voluntarily stopped production this past summer when it was found that men working in the manufacture of DBCP were either sterile or had decreased sperm counts. Based on studies showing stomach and mammary tumors in rats and mice, the substance is also suspected of being a human cancer agent.

Despite the production halt, other firms that formulate DBCP into finished pesticide products may still have some of the compound on hand. EPA's order would prohibit any future sale of these products in the U.S. unless safeguards and conditions outlined in the order are met.

EPA Administrator, Douglas M. Costle said that possible residues of the pesticide on 19 vegetables and fruits may pose a risk of cancer or reproductive damage to people eating them. These crops are broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplants, endive, lettuce, melons, parsips, peanuts, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, and turnips.

EPA has not issued any warnings to the public to stop eating these foods because the expectation of residues is largely a theoretical one. Based on industry and Canadian test results, only a part of these crops — between 10 and 25 percent — is treated with DBCP. It is uncertain where that segment is marketed.

(Source: *Environmental Health Newsletter — November 1*)

**BRIEFS**

The State of New York discontinued stocking chinook salmon in Lake Ontario and reduced the number of coho salmon stocked in the lake to 40,000 per year until such time as the contaminant problem with mirex in the lake can be resolved or until data indicate that it would be advisable to reinstitute normal stocking programs. Lake Erie coho and chinook salmon stocking programs will continue as scheduled. Other salmonid stocking (brown trout, rainbow—steelhead) will be continued and the numbers stocked will be increased as the salmonid program continues to develop.

In September ground breaking occurred for the construction of the $11 million salmonid hatchery. The facility will provide much of the future salmonid stocking by New York to Great Lakes waters. The production of the hatchery will be combined with that of other state hatcheries to provide fish for both inland and Great Lakes waters.

New York has an intensive and extensive contaminant monitoring program on its Great Lakes waters and other major water systems in the state.
The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has obligated $497,227,400 for the planning, design, and construction of over 200 municipal sewage treatment plants in Ohio. The amount was Ohio’s Fiscal Year (FY) 1976 allotment of federal funds for the municipal wastewater treatment construction grant program, the program authorized by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-500).

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The Water Resources Council of the United States noted in “Water Resources Policy Study: Issues and Options”: “Federal Water resource planning is oriented to construction projects rather than to comprehensive management of the nation’s water resources by all alternative means. This orientation has precluded the use of nonstructural measures such as flood plain management and pricing policies, and has, therefore, resulted in projects that are not as effective, efficient, or environmentally sound as otherwise possible.”

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The IJC recently held a series of public hearings on its references related to Great Lakes’ levels:

a. to determine the possibilities for limited regulation of Lake Erie and the consequent effects throughout the Great Lakes Basin, and

b. to examine the effects of existing and proposed diversions of water within, into, or out of the Great Lakes Basin; and the effects on Great Lakes’ levels and flows from existing or reasonable foreseeable patterns of consumptive uses.

For information write to the Headquarters Offices at 1717 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20440 or 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3.

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Peerless Cement has applied for a permit to dispose of PCBs during cement manufacture in cement kilns in the city of Detroit near the Detroit River. During the process of cement making, oils containing PCBs can be injected into the coal bed of the kiln. There 2400°F temperatures burn off the oil and split the benzene rings. Hydrogen chloride (HCl) is released and piped into the alkaline cement mixture. There, the acid is neutralized. However, if temperatures are not maintained in the coal bed, HCl emissions can be released. Test burning at an Ontario plant demonstrated that the process is feasible, but residents nearby expressed some fears and disposal has been halted there. Recently a member of the Detroit City Council proposed a by-law prohibiting incineration of PCBs in populated areas.

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The U.S. Department of Interior said it was “seeking the termination of both the seepage and of the off-site dewatering to eliminate those human influences or activities which disrupt or obstruct the natural forces and processes that would otherwise be pre-eminent in shaping the lakeshore character.” The activities are connected with the Bailly Nuclear Power Plant Site.

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Though the Mahoning River Valley in Ohio is outside the Great Lakes Basin, Focus readers may be interested in a change in its water quality standards. The stringent, United States federally approved water quality standards adopted July 1972 for the lower main stem of the Mahoning River have been repealed. The repealed water quality standards are being replaced by a two-phased set of water quality standards which became effective November 14, 1977 and remain in effect until June 1, 1983. The new standards allow industries and municipalities in the Mahoning Valley to continue to discharge at current loading levels, but the entities cannot further degrade the water quality while they install pollution abatement facilities during Phase I of the standards. The Phase II standards are an upgrading of water quality and they require the attainment of downstream designated water quality use in accordance with federal law. Each section of the river will have to meet its own designated uses water quality and have quality such that it is not detrimental to the uses in the next portion of the river. The designated uses of the Mahoning after it flows into Pennsylvania in Phase II are domestic water supply, warm water fishery, industry water supply, livestock watering, irrigation, fishing, water contact sports, natural area, hydroelectric generation and treated waste assimilation. These are potential uses. Today, according to Ken Schoener (Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Resources), the river is “virtually unused because of pollution.”

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Floodplain management, a study by Rutherford H. Platt, University of Massachusetts, will review the state of the art of intergovernmental coordination of floodplain management. Funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of Water Research and Technology, it will examine the fragmentation of public authority over a common floodplain, the legal/institutional mechanisms for reconciling and coordinating intergovernmental floodplain management, and the question of how existing regional or intergovernmental arrangements could be used more effectively for such coordination. Contact: Rutherford H. Platt, Department of Geology/Geography, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, (413) 545-2296.
LAW AND THE COURTS

The Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act, HR936, has again been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. Representative F.B. Rooney, Chairman of the Transportation and Commerce Subcommittee (House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) has not yet held hearings on the act.

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On December 1 the United States Environmental Protection Agency held hearings in Lansing, Michigan to consider options on future controls of PBB (polybrominated biphenyls). Write to EPA or the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, One Northfield Plaza, Troy, Michigan, 48098 for information.

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Ontario recently added Kirtland's warbler as the 13th species to be protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. This move occurred because a census of the Central Michigan jack pine plains, the only known breeding range, indicated that only about 450 birds survive. There have been Ontario sightings, including one this past summer, so Ontario has recognized a need for cooperation with the Michigan-based Kirtland's warbler survival project.

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Acting Governor Martin J. Schreiber submitted the Wisconsin Coastal Management Proposal to federal officials in the Department of Commerce on August 15. The submittal requests $400,000 to complete several work elements necessary for proposal approval, to fund 26 coastal management projects and to support the organizations and staff to implement the program. Wisconsin will have to match the grant with $100,000 in state and local dollars and services. For details write to Jim Purinton, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Environmental Resources Unit, 1818 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

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October 1 saw the Michigan rule to ban more than trace amounts of phosphorus in detergents go into effect — not unopposed. In September, both the Wayne County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's authority to limit "nutrients" under the State's Environmental Protection Act in a suit filed this summer by the Soap and Detergent Association, the Amway Corporation and the Monsanto Company. Recently the Great Lakes phosphorus detergent ban amendment to PL92-500 was defeated. However, Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) has a commitment from Senator Edward Muskie (Maine), Chairman of the Environment and Pollution Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, to hold hearings in April. Representa-

Government Bill C-38, an Act to Amend the [Canada] Fisheries Act, received third reading and Royal Assent and has been in effect since September 1, 1977. The Act strengthened and broadened the definition of deleterious substance and broadened the definition of fish to include "the eggs, spawn, spat and juvenile stages of fish, shellfish, crustaceans and marine animals."

GREAT LAKES BOARD MET IN WINDSOR

The Great Lakes Water Quality Board held its thirtieth meeting on December 1 and 2 in Windsor at the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office. The sessions were open to representatives of the media and the general public as observers.

Board members remained after their meeting for a news briefing and public question and answer session. Board Chairmen, George R. Alexander Jr., Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator-Chicago, and Dr. Robert W. Slater, Director General, Ontario Region of the Environmental Protection Service, Department of Fisheries and the Environment-Toronto, began their briefing by summarizing the deliberations of the Board.

During the two-day meeting, the Board spent the majority of its time formulating plans leading to submission of its Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality to the IJC in July 1978, and heard activity reports from its subcommittees. The Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group reported progress on its studies. The Research Advisory Board, in accordance with its established policy, reviewed its current programs.

At a special meeting prior to the Board's regular meeting, representatives of industry and government examined the complex problems posed by the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes. Attendees agreed that the general reluctance of people to allow disposal facilities to locate in their neighborhoods is a primary problem throughout the basin. Though government and industry state that a properly designed and operated disposal system is needed to handle hazardous wastes, they cannot find enough localities in the Great Lakes Basin willing to establish disposal sites. Therefore it is necessary to transport the wastes across jurisdictional boundaries. Because great distances are sometimes involved, the risk of accidental spill is increased. Further, it is difficult for agencies to assure ultimate safe disposal. The Water Quality Board will discuss these and other related problems as well as develop recommendations for control and disposal of hazardous wastes at subsequent meetings.

BOOKSHELF

The Great Lakes Regional Office recently published a bibliography of documents prepared by Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement boards and groups. Because supplies of the 1977 Water Quality Board report and its appendices as well as the Research Advisory Board annual report were rapidly depleted, the documents were reprinted. Write to the Great Lakes Regional Office if you wish to obtain copies of the reports or bibliography.

Turn on the Sun is a recently prepared 44-page booklet on solar energy. The Ontario Ministry of Energy prepared it "to answer questions about the sun's energy potential and the application of solar energy." It contains information on the components of solar systems, discusses costs, present and potential applications, and provides references. Copies are available from: Information Office – Conservation, Ministry of Energy, 56 Wellesley Street, West - 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2B7.

On February 21-22, 1977, the Research Advisory Board sponsored a Workshop on Economic and Legal Mechanisms now available to encourage meeting environmental objectives in the Great Lakes Basin. Proceedings have been published and may be obtained from the Great Lakes Regional Office. The document includes the papers, comments presented by critiquing panelists, selected parts of discussion periods, lists of suggested mechanisms, speeches, a list of participants and numerous other items. (The workshop was reported in Focus 3, Issue 1 soon after the event.)

The IJC's Annual Report on its activities from coast to coast along the boundary of the United States and Canada can now be requested from the Headquarters offices in Washington and Ottawa or from the Great Lakes Regional Office. Copies of the IJC's Fifth Annual Report to Governments on Great Lakes Water Quality will go to print in late January. Copies will be available from the Great Lakes Regional Office.

The Minnesota Marine Advisory Service of the University of Minnesota at Duluth recently released Lake Superior Soup – Volume 1, Public Agencies. Many coastal citizens are overwhelmed by the number of agencies that have responsibilities along Minnesota's Lake Superior coast. This publication explains the agencies' roles in order to educate people.
about their function(s), and explain their services.

Work is underway on a follow-up publication, Lake Superior Soup — Volume II, Private Interest Groups. This publication will explain the roles of the multitude of private interest groups that have an interest in resource policy along the coast.

Copies are available free of charge through the Advisory Service, 109 Washburn Hall, Duluth, Minnesota 53706.

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Guide To Eating Ontario Sportfish is a twelve page brochure available from the Ministry of Environment, Information Services Branch, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4B 1P5. Regional and district offices of Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources also have copies of the brochure. The publication presents facts about fish contamination developed from material assembled by the ministries of Environment, Health, Labour and Natural Resources. Most lakes have fish that are safe to eat. Where there are problems, some species are still safe to eat, and others are safe in limited quantities. In other cases, certain fish simply should not be consumed at all.

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The Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District has replaced its quarterly newsletter (last issued April 1976) on the Lake Erie Wastewater Management Study with a Public Information Fact Sheet format. The Fact Sheets are to be numbered consecutively so readers can determine whether they receive all issues. The sheets will be published whenever study developments warrant. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list, write to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207.

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The Science Council of Canada Publications Office (150 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P4) now has available a series of background studies, overviews and working papers, as well as its Report No. 28, Policies and Poisons: The Containment of Long Term Hazards to Human Health in the Environment and in the Workplace. The main reports treat asbestos, lead, mercury, oxides of nitrogen, radiation and vinyl chloride. For a list of the documents, write to the Council for a press release issued October 11, 1977.

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The October/November issue of Environment Ontario’s Legacy has several excellent articles relating to Great Lakes programs. For a copy or to request to be placed on the mailing list, write to Ministry of the Environment, Information Services Branch, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5.

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Michigan Sea Grant has released two useful booklets: "Shore Erosion — What To Do" (no. MICHUSG-75-100) and "Buying Great Lakes Shoreline Property" (no. MICHUSG-75-101). They are available from Michigan Sea Grant Advisory Service, 2200 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.

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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is publishing a monthly 208 Bulletin describing that state’s water quality planning activities under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. It is available from MPCA, 1935 West County Road B2, Roseville, Minnesota 55113.

ANOTHER WAY TO HALT POLLUTION

Jackson B. Browning of Union Carbide made the following remarks at the National Environmental Policy Conference. "When you lock industry into using the best technology available at a given date, and you set environmental standards accordingly, you deprive industry of any incentive to seek its own long-term solution, to seek constant improvement in its technologies, and moreover, you foreclose constant improvement in environmental quality. With the economic incentive of a pollution tax, different industries would attack their problems in different ways according to their economic circumstances."

Richard Robbins’ article in the last issue presented a different viewpoint. What’s yours?

LIBRARY SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE

by Norma Gibson-MacDonald

Are you looking for information on pollution of the Detroit River or on hazardous substance spills in Lake Superior? Try the library of the IJC’s Great Lakes Regional Office. The library is part of the total information services offered by the Regional Office. It is staffed by a professional librarian and is designed to serve staff and members of the International Joint Commission’s boards and groups.

One of a few specializing in the Great Lakes, the library is particularly unique because the selection policy focuses on items relating to the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Thus, the library collects materials on water resources, limnology, hydrology, water and wastewater treatment, solid wastes, toxic and hazardous materials, land use, health, resources management, and the social, economic and legal aspects of pollution.

Library materials are in a variety of forms — scientific reports, books, maps, slides, and microfiche — and from a number of different sources such as
federal, state, provincial and municipal agencies and university research centres.

At present, the library has a collection of over 5,000 items and periodical holdings of approximately 100 titles. Most of these have been acquired since 1975 when the library was first organized.

An important collection in the library is the archive of all reports issued under the Water Quality Agreement. In addition the library has archival copies of IJC reports on Great Lakes water quality prior to the Agreement, as well as many other Commission reports. (A bibliography of Agreement reports may be obtained by contacting the librarian.)

The library offers a variety of services to the staff including current awareness, routing of journals and newsletters, literature searches on WATDOC, an on-line data base provided by Environment Canada, and inter-library loans. The reference section contains directories, handbooks, atlases, bibliographies, and city maps which are useful for planning meetings. Some of the more important reference and current awareness items are Environment Reporter, Selected Water Resources Abstracts and Weekly Government Abstracts – Environment Pollution and Control.

Even with all of these items to respond to the wide variety of enquiries received, the librarian cannot provide all the answers. Inter-library loans or the local university and public library resources supplement the Windsor Office collection. Because of the library's participation in an informal network of Great Lakes environmental libraries, the librarian can also refer enquiries to many other subject-related libraries in Canada and the United States.

As you might expect, the library is a popular spot for researchers and others interested not only in the Agreement but also water resources and pollution of the Great Lakes in general. The facilities are available to anyone who telephones, writes or visits. You may borrow items through your local library using standard inter-library loan procedures.

How can the library help you?

MORE CLEANUP AT ABITIBI

Six control orders issued by Ontario Ministry of the Environment have resulted in a $44 million pollution abatement program at seven of the Abitibi Paper Company's eight Ontario mills. Ministry officials have worked with the company over the past year to establish an abatement program which meets [the Ontario government's] environmental concern while recognizing current economic and employment conditions affecting the pulp and paper industry.

Control Orders are now in effect on the Abitibi mills in Smooth Rock Falls, Sturgeon Falls, Thorold and three Thurler Bay mills. The last three came into effect November 24, 1977.

The Abitibi cleanup is part of a Ministry program to reduce the significant impact that the pulp and paper industry has on the Ontario environment. All mills in the Province have been reviewed with the companies and as a result, 16 Control Orders and Requirements and Directions are in effect, affecting 16 mills in Ontario.

Since 1960, the Ontario pulp and paper industry, overall, has spent more than $120 million on pollution control measures, including $70 million on facilities for the removal of suspended solids. Since 1969 more than $12 million has been spent by the industry on air pollution control (from news release Ontario Ministry of the Environment).

AMERICAN CAN’S MARATHON MERCURY CELL PLANT SEALED

American Can of Canada Ltd. has closed and sealed the mercury contaminated remains of their Marathon chlor-alkali plant which shut down August 31, 1977, to meet a Ministry of the Environment control order.

The plant has dismantled all operations contaminated by mercury. A concrete bunker, measuring 100 feet x 25 feet x 12 feet contains the residue following removal of salvagable material. This bunker has been capped and sealed with high-strength concrete.

Ministry staff from the Thunder Bay office supervised the process and the drilling of test wells around the disposal site. They will continue to monitor effluent from the plant and ground water from these test wells to ensure against any future mercury discharges.
PEOPLE
Rear Admiral James S. Gracey is the new Coast Guard Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. He is succeeded as commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District in Cleveland by Rear Admiral Robert H. Scarborough.

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Dr. Edith Tebo has been selected as the US EPA’s first Great Lakes National Program Office Director. As the Director, she will support the Region V Administrator, George R. Alexander, Jr., in managing the new national program. The office will provide or secure technical support for surveillance, research, special studies, remedial programs and environmental planning, as well as provide program management, administration and reporting functions.

A SPECIAL THANKS
Sally Leppard and Marty Clark, the PLUARG Public Consultation Panel facilitators, extend heartfelt “thanks” and “well done” to the 300 plus citizens who served on the panels.

The United States and Canadian panelists worked very hard, not only during the meetings, but also by doing their homework between meetings. They spent thousands of hours reading, thinking, writing, meeting and traveling.

The panel reports are excellent and will be useful to PLUARG. The reports are a good reflection of panelists’ concern and effort.

Thanks again!

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EVENTS
The International Association for Great Lakes Research will hold its Twenty-First Annual Conference at the University of Windsor, May 9, 10, and 11, 1978.

The purpose of the conference is to stimulate information exchange on theoretical and experimental research having a direct relation to the Great Lakes, or applicable to the understanding or management of large lakes in general. Papers related to the physical, chemical, biological, engineering, and socio-economic problems of the Great Lakes will be presented. The conference will consist of three full days of technical and plenary sessions and panels.

The call for papers has been sent to some 2,000 individuals on the Association’s mailing list and the deadline for abstracts is January 15, 1978. Abstracts not to exceed 250 words should be typed and returned to: 21st Conference on Great Lakes Research, Department of Geography, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4.

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The Great Lakes Basin Commission sponsored a conference on water conservation in cooperation with the University of Michigan Extension Service December 6 and 7. Though verbatim proceedings will not be published, a summary of the highlights will be prepared. Copies should be available in February. If you would like one, write to David Gregorka, Great Lakes Basin Commission, P.O. Box 999, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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The Sixth Annual Industrial Pollution Conference will be held April 11-13, 1978, at the Riverfront Convention Complex, St. Louis, Missouri. The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) will sponsor the event. Resource recovery and conservation will be stressed as the
group seeks solutions to wastewater treatment problems in the chemical, petroleum, food, paper and other processing and manufacturing industries. For details write: Frederick Harroun, WWEMA, 7900 Westpark Dr., Suite 304, McLean, VA 22101.

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The Canadian Environmental Exposition '78 will be held April 3-5 at the Automotive Building, Exhibition Park, Toronto. A.E. Wadham, Canadian Environmental Exposition, 109 Vanderhoof Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4G 2J2. (416) 425-1427 has details.

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CIVIL PENALTIES FOR WATER AND AIR QUALITY VIOLATORS

The civil penalty provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act subjects any person who violates certain permits, orders or sections of the Act to civil penalties up to $10,000 per day of violation. The civil penalty provision of the Clean Air Act is similar, except that it allows a civil penalty of up to $25,000 per day of violation and requires that civil penalty assessment consider "the size of the business,

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the economic impact of the penalty on the business and the seriousness of the violation.”

The new policy is based on an important enforcement goal to eliminate economic gain obtained by violating pollution control requirements and, where appropriate, to impose additional economic sanctions as well. The new policy is applicable only to violations resulting from a failure to install pollution control equipment.

Marvin Durning, EPA enforcement chief, stated: “The policy should result in fairer enforcement of environmental laws by insuring that pollution sources can voluntarily comply with control requirements without suffering an economic disadvantage in comparison with those who do not. The policy will only result in fairer enforcement, however, if it is uniformly applied across the country. If a state or federal region fails to seek sufficient penalties, it will give its industry an unfair advantage and will make enforcement correspondingly more difficult for the other states and federal regions.”

Two methods of measuring the economic advantage of delayed compliance are under consideration.

One computes the opportunity for profit gained by use of equity capital which otherwise would have been used for pollution control as well as certain operation and maintenance costs avoided.

The other method computes the capital and operating costs which are avoided by delayed compliance throughout the useful life of the pollution control investment and calculates an appropriate penalty from these avoided costs. Both methods, EPA said, are based on the assumption that the deferred pollution control investment would have been financed in part by using the source’s equity capital (in the same proportion that the source’s equity is to its total investment, both debt and equity) and in part by borrowed capital. (Taken from December 1, 1977 Environmental Health Newsletter).

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES
Write to Patricia Bonner - Editor, Great Lakes Focus, IJC Regional Office, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9A 6T3.