



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

27 JAN 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Ms. Lynelle Marolf  
Deputy Director  
Office of the Great Lakes  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Constitution Hall - 6th floor South  
525 West Allegan Street  
PO Box 30473  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Dear Lynelle:

Thank you for your November 18, 2013 request to remove the "Degradation of Aesthetics" Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) from the United States side of the St. Marys River binational Area of Concern (AOC) in Michigan. As you know, we share your desire to restore all of the Great Lakes AOCs and to formally delist them.

Based upon a review of your submittal and the supporting data, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hereby approves your BUI removal request for the United States side of the St. Marys River AOC. It is our understanding that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada will undertake a study to determine the status of this BUI on the Canadian side of this AOC and they will remove this BUI for the Canadian side in a separate action.

EPA will notify the International Joint Commission of this significant positive environmental change at this AOC.

We congratulate you and your staff, as well as the many federal, state, and local partners who have worked so hard and been instrumental in achieving this important environmental improvement. Removal of this BUI will benefit not only the people who live and work in the St. Marys River AOC, but all the residents of Michigan and the Great Lakes basin as well. We look forward to the continuation of this important and productive relationship with your agency and the local binational coordinating committee as we work together to fully restore all of Michigan's AOCs. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (312) 353-4891, or your staff may contact John Perrecone, at (312) 353-1149.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Korleski".

Chris Korleski, Director  
Great Lakes National Program Office

cc: Dan Wyant, Director, MDEQ  
Jon W. Allan, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes  
Rick Hobria, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes  
Bretton Joldersma, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes  
Stephen Locke, IJC  
Wendy Carney, EPA, GLNPO  
John Perrecone, EPA, GLNPO  
Ted Smith, EPA, GLNPO