



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 05 2010

Mail Code: R-19J

Mr. William Creal
Chief, Water Bureau
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Constitution Hall
525 W. Allegan St.
P.O. Box 30273
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773

Dear Mr. Creal:

This letter is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's official response to your letter of March 23, 2010, requesting the delisting of the Beach Closings Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Manistique River Area of Concern (AOC). As your request points out and the supplied data supports, the following restoration criteria for the Beach Closings in the Manistique River AOC have been met:

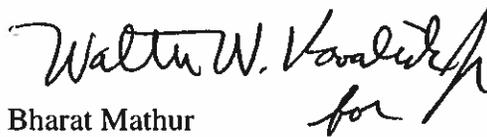
- The sampling plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) were approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE);
- *E. coli* concentrations are below a 30-day geometric mean of 130 counts per 100 milliliters (ml);
- At least 90 percent of sample results are below the daily geometric mean limits of 300 counts *E. coli* per 100 ml;
- Not more than 1 of the sample results exceed the partial-body contact water quality standard of 1,000 counts *E. coli* per 100 ml based on a daily geometric mean; and,
- The DNRE-approved plans in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit are in place for addressing any remaining Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) that are causing BUIs and the implementation plan is on schedule.

Based upon EPA's review of your request and the supporting data, and upon our shared desire to show progress as we move all of the Great Lakes AOCs toward restoration of all BUIs and formal delisting, EPA approves your request for the delisting of the Beach Closings BUI in the Manistique River AOC. EPA will notify the International Joint Commission (IJC) of this significant positive change in the environmental health of the Manistique AOC.

We congratulate all of the parties involved in this Federal/State/local partnership. This has been instrumental in achieving this important environmental improvement which will benefit the citizens of the Manistique AOC, the State of Michigan, and of the Great Lakes Basin. We look forward to the continuation of this important and productive relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the local coordinating committees as we work together to fully restore all of Michigan's AOCs.

If I or my staff can be of further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter W. Kovalich" with a large flourish at the end. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, cursive script.

Bharat Mathur
Acting Great Lakes National Program Manager

cc:

James K. Cleland, DNRE
Ken DeBeaussaert, Office of the Great Lakes
Richard Hobrla, DNRE
Diana Klemens, DNRE
Julie Sims, DNRE
Corey Barr, Chair of Manistique Public Advisory Council
Dr. Saad Jasim, Director, Great Lakes Regional Office, IJC
Gary Gulezian, Director, Great Lakes National Program Office
Amy P. Mucha, AOC Liaison, EPA-GLNPO
John Perrecone, RAP Coordinator, EPA-GLNPO
Pete Christich, EPA-OIA