



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

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R-19J

Steven E. Chester, Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Dear Mr. Chester:

This letter is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's official response to the letter from Mr. Frank J. Baldwin, Acting Chief of your Water Bureau, on August 20, 2008, requesting the delisting of the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Manistique River, Michigan Area of Concern (AOC). As Mr. Baldwin's request points out, and the supplied data support, the restoration criteria established for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI by the Manistique River Public Advisory Council following the process in the state's *Guidance for Delisting Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern* have been met in the Manistique River AOC since, 1) "The Degradation of Benthos BUI has been removed according to the *Guidance*" (November 2006) and, 2) "The reach of the Manistique River within the AOC supports a diverse fish community." Based upon this review and the supporting data, and upon our shared desire to show progress as we move all of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern toward restoration of all beneficial use impairments and formal delisting, EPA approves the request for the delisting of the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment in the Manistique River AOC. EPA will notify the International Joint Commission of this significant positive change in the environmental health of the Manistique River AOC.

We congratulate all of the parties involved in this Federal/State/local partnership which has been instrumental in achieving this important environmental improvement that will benefit the citizens of the Manistique River AOC, the State of Michigan, and the Great Lakes Basin. We look forward to the continuation of this important and productive relationship with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Manistique River AOC Public Advisory Council 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 me.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Walter W. Karalick in cursive script.

Lynn Buhl
Great Lakes National Program Manager

cc: Representative Bart Stupak
Frank Baldwin, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Julie Sims, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Roger Eberhardt, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Corey Barr, City of Manistique
Mayor Dave Peterson, City of Manistique
Gary Gulezian, USEPA – Great Lakes National Program Office
Anthony Kizlauskas, USEPA – Great Lakes National Program Office
Mark Elster, USEPA – Great Lakes National Program Office
Pete Christich, USEPA – Office of International Activities
Dr. Karen E. Vigmostad, Great Lakes Regional Office, International Joint Commission