



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

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JUN 30 2008

Mail Code: R-19J

James Cleland, Chief
Water Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30273
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Cleland:

This letter is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's official response to your letter of January 3, 2008, requesting the delisting of the Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odor Problems Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Saginaw River and Bay Area of Concern (AOC). As your request points out and the supplied data support, the following restoration criteria for Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odor Problems Beneficial Use Impairment BUI in the Saginaw River and Bay AOC have been met:

Monitoring data for 2 years indicate that public water supplies:

- *Meet the current and most stringent human health standards, objectives, or guidelines (at the point of distribution into the water system) for levels of disease-causing organisms, hazardous or toxic chemicals, or radioactive substances; and*
- *Treatment needed to make raw water potable and palatable does not exceed standard methods in those supplies. In the event a public drinking water intake must be closed due to contamination of surface water, standard treatment methods are considered to have been exceeded.*

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 Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odor Problems BUI in the Saginaw River and Bay AOC. EPA will notify the International Joint Commission (IJC) of this significant positive change in the environmental health of the Saginaw River and Bay 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 Saginaw River and Bay 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 Environmental Quality and the local coordinating committees as we work together to fully restore all of Michigan's AOCs.

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

Sincerely,



Bharat Mathur

Acting Great Lakes National Program Manager

cc: Diana Klemans, MDEQ
Rick Hobrla, MDEQ
Michelle Selzer, MDEQ
Dennis Zimmerman, Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed
Karen Vigmostad, Director, Great Lakes Regional Office, IJC
James Schardt, AOC Liaison, USEPA-GLNPO
Mark Elster, RAP Coordinator, USEPA-GLNPO
Pete Christich, USEPA-Office of International Activities