



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

RECEIVED DEQ - ANG - RAU
SEP 30 2008

SEP 24 2008

Mail Code: R-19J

James K. Cleland, Acting 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 (EPA) official response to your letter of July 21, 2008, requesting the delisting of the Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Saginaw River and Bay Area of Concern (AOC). As your request points out and the supplied data supports, the following restoration criteria for Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor BUI in the Saginaw River and Bay AOC have been met:

The Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor BUI will be considered restored when:

- *No more than three reports of fish tainting have been made to the MDNR or MDEQ for a period of three years;*

Or, if there have been reports of tainting:

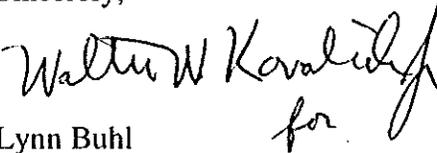
- *A one-time analysis of representative fish species in an AOC in accordance with MDEQ's Great Lakes and Environmental Assessment Section (GLEAS) Procedure #55 for conducting taste and odor studies indicate that there is no tainting of fish flavor.*

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 Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor 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.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Walter W. Kovalich in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Lynn Buhl
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, EPA-GLNPO
Mark Elster, RAP Coordinator, EPA-GLNPO
Pete Christich, EPA-Office of International Activities