



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 4 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Mrs. Patricia Birkholz
Director, Office of the Great Lakes
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
525 West Allegan
P.O. Box 30273
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773

Dear Patty:

Thank you for your May 10, 2012 request to remove the "Degradation of Benthos" Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) at the White Lake 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 at the White Lake AOC. In addition, 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. This improvement will benefit not only the people who live and work in the White Lake 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 local coordinating committees 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 that reads "Chris Korleski".

Chris Korleski, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office

cc: Dan Wyant, Director, MDEQ
Frank Ruswick, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes
Rick Hobrla, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes
John Riley, MDEQ, Office of Great Lakes
Dr. Saad Jasmin, IJC
Wendy Carney, EPA, GLNPO
John Perrecone, EPA, GLNPO
Jeff Auch, Muskegon Conservation District