



NEWS RELEASE

International Joint Commission United States and Canada

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The International Joint Commission's Annual Meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality will be held in Windsor in 1982.

E. Richmond Olson, Acting Canadian Chairman, announced today that the Commission would return to Cleary Auditorium November 17 through 19, 1982.

"The International Joint Commission held its first Annual Meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality in Windsor in 1975. It is fitting that we return to a location that holds tradition for us during this year, the Tenth Anniversary of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the two nations."

"The Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement signed in 1972 pledged the two countries to programs of coordinated industrial and municipal wastewater clean-up. It provided through the International Joint Commission a means for eight Great Lakes states, Ontario, Quebec and the two federal governments to cooperate in research, surveillance and programs to reduce pollution. The two nations made progress under the 1972 Agreement. Much was accomplished and much was learned."

"The 1978 Agreement is even more comprehensive. The statement of purpose, "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem", reflects this more comprehensive attitude. The 1978 Agreement also reflects a growing awareness of the threat of toxic contaminants and it puts more emphasis on the effects of land drainage and air pollution on water quality in the Great Lakes."

"We expect our advisors, the Great Lakes Water Quality Board and the Science Advisory Board, to discuss the problems and progress made since we met last November and to make recommendations to improve program effectiveness. This year we also look forward to their review of the past ten years of work. We will also continue to plan with them for the next ten years."

"The Commission invites the general public, and representatives of citizen organizations, industry and the media to attend the open sessions and contribute their thinking to discussions of what should be done during the next ten years under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Public input is important to the process and the perceptions, attitudes and actions of persons living in the Great Lakes Basin are likely to have a direct bearing on the rate of progress that will be achieved under this Agreement."