

NEWS FROM THE CHLORINE INSTITUTE

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CHLORINE INSTITUTE STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION'S VIRTUAL ELIMINATION TASK FORCE PUBLIC CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

The Chlorine Institute, on behalf of its members, is committed to constructive participation in the International Joint Commission process which is evaluating policies to enhance Great Lakes water quality.

We recognize and appreciate the unique character of the Great Lakes and we support scientifically credible policies that will enhance their quality. Moreover, we endorse processes that facilitate open dialogue among major stakeholders on enhancing the Great Lakes ecosystem.

We believe that cooperative, science-based dialogue is the best way to resolve questions regarding chlorine, and we support scientifically credible examinations of the risks and benefits of chlorine and chlorine compounds.

We believe that chlorine and the products of chlorine chemistry can be used in a manner protective of the environment. We will not support any chlorine uses where credible science shows that risks outweigh benefits.

The IJC published its chlorine recommendations in April 1992. Since then, the Chlorine Institute has taken every opportunity afforded to provide constructive, science-based input to the IJC's Virtual Elimination Task Force (VETF). We will continue to furnish credible science as the IJC process moves forward.

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Chlorine is a chemical building block that is used in thousands of applications that are essential to enhancing human health and the environment, and the social and economic welfare of every North American citizen. An analysis of major chlorine uses and potential alternatives shows that U.S. and Canadian consumers annually enjoy more than \$100 billion worth of savings from chlorine and products based on chlorine chemistry, as opposed to the alternatives.

Public health officials generally recognize drinking water chlorination as one of the most important public health advances of the 20th century. Since chlorination was introduced on a large-scale early this century, waterborne diseases including cholera, typhoid fever and dysentery have been virtually eradicated, and North American life expectancy has increased 50 percent -- from 50 to 75 years.

Chlorine and chlorine-based compounds also are used to disinfect swimming pools, waste-water systems, and are widely used to maintain hospital, home and food-processing-plant cleanliness. Eighty-five percent of all pharmaceuticals are based on chlorine chemistry, including drugs to treat heart disease, hypertension, ulcers, leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, arthritis, pneumonia, allergies, and respiratory illnesses. Chlorine-based crop-protection chemicals ensure that nutritious fruits, vegetables and grains are plentiful and reasonably priced.

The Washington-based Chlorine Institute is the safety, health, environmental protection and educational center for the U.S. and Canadian chlor-alkali industry. Founded in 1924, the Institute has some 190 members located in nearly every state and Canadian province.

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