

A PROJECT ON ENVIRONMENTAL
STANDARD SETTING AND REGULATION
WITH FOCUSES ON COMMITMENTS UNDER THE GLWQA

RATIONALE

Citizens in Canada repeatedly express their concern about chemical contaminants in the Great Lakes environment and their desire to participate in decisions which affect environmental regulations and standards affecting contaminant levels. A major reason for the public's concerns and desire to be involved is alarm about the human health implications of environmental contamination in the Great Lakes environment.

The Government of Canada has recognized this concern and committed itself when it signed the GLWQA to working to reduce the level of contaminants in the Great Lakes. Through legislation and policy statements, governments in Canada have established the principle that the public should be involved in decisions which affect the environment. The following project proposal addresses the needs of citizens to more effectively participate in these decision-making processes in the implementation of the GLWQA.

Two major factors affect the ability of the public to participate effectively in environmental decision-making. These are the technical nature of the subject and the complex and confusing processes by which standards and regulations are set. This project will address both of these issues and facilitate public understanding and involvement in decision-making, particularly as it relates to human health and the GLWQA. Additionally, through this project, government officials and citizens will gain an understanding of each other's needs and constraints with respect to environmental regulation.

THE PROJECT

There will be two major components to this project. It will be conducted over a three-year period.

The first component of the project will involve developing a citizens' guide to the process of environmental regulation and standard setting in Canada. The standards of both the federal government and Ontario government will be included. The regulations and standards related to discharges to air and water will be the initial focus. This guide will help citizens develop an understanding of the mechanisms that governments can use to protect people and the Great Lakes environment. Emphasis will be given to exploring the relationship between the GLWQA and other governmental processes.

build on Guide

to GLWQA

*need in addition to examine
mixed-media transfer
the ability of current regulation to
address ecosystems*

The second component of the project will involve working directly with citizens' groups to facilitate their involvement in implementation of the GLWQA and in standard and regulation setting. Because of the public's expressed desire, we will also work on improving public understanding of health concerns. To achieve these goals, GLU will develop public workshops to discuss the issue of human health and Great Lakes contamination. These will involve both assistance in understanding the decision-making process and in understanding and interpreting technical data.

Staffing

This proposal would involve the creation of two professional positions:

1. Scientific advisor - This position would be someone with a technical knowledge of chemistry and human health effects of chemicals.
2. Policy analyst and conference organizer - This position would be someone with skills in the interpretation and communication of information related to regulatory and standard-setting processes.

The project would also require a half-time secretarial support position. These staff would be located in a Great Lakes United office in Windsor.

PRODUCTS

The primary products of this project will be an enhanced ability of citizens to understand information related to standard-setting and regulation, including the GLWQA. In addition, understanding of human health effects of chemicals in the Great Lakes would be increased, and citizens could participate more effectively in environmental decision-making. To assist in achieving this goal, a citizens' guide to environmental regulation and standard setting in Canada would be prepared. This would include material related to the implementation of the GLWQA. A report would also be prepared which would outline the concerns of citizens with respect to environmental decision-making. This would help facilitate greater public involvement and identify stumbling blocks to public involvement and participating.

The third product would be the development of mechanisms for bringing together citizens with experts in environmental regulation and health issues related to Great Lakes toxicity.

Great Lakes United is a binational coalition of more than 180 member groups from throughout the Great Lakes Basin. This broad base of representation of member groups makes Great Lakes

United uniquely qualified to undertake this project. Additionally, Great Lakes United was represented as a citizen participant during the negotiations of the amendments to the GLWQA in 1987 and as such, this project provides logical follow-up to that participation.

FUNDING

Required funding for this project would be \$97,900 each year for three years.

~~PROPOSED~~ BUDGET - FIRST YEAR

Salaries	
Staff Scientist	30,000
Organizer/Writer	30,000
Secretarial support (Part-time)	9,000
Staff travel (first Year)	6,000
Task force member travel	2,000
Printing (first year)**	6,000
Telephone	3,000
Office Supplies/Postage	3,000
Overhead (Based on 10% of Project)	8,900
Total	97,900

** less in subsequent years

August 15, 1989

balancing item