



GREAT LAKES UNITED

ACTION UPDATE

ONTARIO RELEASES (MISA) - A STRATEGY FOR CLEANER WATERS

Through the leadership of Ontario's Environment Minister, Jim Bradley, the province has announced a policy and program statement on controlling municipal and industrial discharges in surface waters. The statement sets forth a series of proposed regulations to be enacted into Ontario's Environmental Protection Act and Water Resources Act. The plan will force over 200 major Ontario industries in eight sectors to cut the amounts of toxic and hazardous waste they dump into streams, rivers and lakes.

For copies of the proposal, write Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Avenue, West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5. Comment period ends on August 28, 1986.

WISCONSIN RELEASES NEW FISH ADVISORIES

On July 2, 1986, state officials issued a new mercury fish consumption advisory designed to protect the health of pregnant women and address the concerns of anglers who occasionally fish in Wisconsin. The advisory suggests that larger, older, predator fish like walleyes and northern pike from Wisconsin waters may be consumed in moderation without significant threat of mercury poisoning. However, it warns that pregnant or nursing women and children are in a "special risk" category requiring extra precaution.

Susan Mudd of Citizens For A Better Environment commented that these advisories "are limited in focus and do not address the broad range of toxic contaminants in the Great Lakes Watershed." Wisconsin fish advisories on other toxic contaminants were not integrated in the July 2 release.

For further information, contact Dr. John Olson, Department of Health and Social Services, (608) 266-0923, or Lee Liebenstein, Department of Natural Resources (608) 266-0164.

MICHIGAN WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION ADOPTS NEW WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

In June, the Michigan Water Resource Commission designated Michigan waters of the Great Lakes as "Outstanding State Resources Waters" preventing the use of Great Lakes water as a mixing zone for toxic contaminants. The Commission further adopted new water quality standards designed to:

- Protect the Great Lakes from toxic pollution;
- Protect high quality lakes and rivers;
- Improve protection of sportfish;
- Control non-point pollution; and
- Control toxic pollution from dredge and fill activities.

Mark Van Putten of the National Wildlife Federation calls the new standards "the most sweeping changes to Michigan's water pollution control regulations in over a decade." "It is essential we work together to ensure passage of these revisions by the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) this fall."

The Michigan legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules are scheduled to vote on the revised water quality rules package in late September or early October.

You are urged to write Committee members at State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 in support of the new water quality standards. In addition, you should encourage your own representative to submit a statement to the Committee supporting these new standards.

The JCAR is comprised of ten members -- five from the Senate and five from the House. The current members are Senators Kirby Holmes (R-Utica), Michael O'Brien (D-Detroit), Patrick McCollough (D-Dearborn), Jack Welborn (R-Kalamazoo), Ed Fredricks (R-Holland) and Representatives Michael Griffin (D-Jackson), Tom Alley (D-West Branch), Dennis Dutko (D-Warren), Charles Mueller (R-Linden), Ernest Nash (R-Dimondale).

For further information on how you can help, contact the GLU office (716) 886-0142 or Mark Van Putten (313) 769-3351.

ACID RAIN BILL READY FOR FALL COMMITTEE

After consideration by two subcommittees of the House Energy Committee, H.R. 4567, the acid rain control bill, is still alive and well and now ready for full committee consideration.

H.R. 4567 requires electric power plants and other large users of fossil fuels to lower emissions of acid rain-producing substances such as sulphur dioxide.

Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) voted against H.R. 4567 when the bill was in another subcommittee last month.

By deciding when and whether to schedule a full committee markup of H.R. 4567, Dingell has the power to speed the bill's passage to the House floor, or slow it.

Since all bills are scrapped at the end of the 1985 Congressional term, H.R. 4567 must make it through full committee and on to a floor vote this year or there will be no acid rain control law adopted by the 99th Congress.

For further information on how you can help, contact Chris Ballantyne at (608) 257-4994.

CONFERENCES/RESEARCH PAPERS

GOVERNORS CONFERENCE ON CANCER PREVENTION, Sponsored by the N.Y.S. Department of Health and the American Cancer Society, September 11 - 12, 1986 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. For further information, write Cancer Prevention Conference, P.O. Box 5414, Albany, NY 12205.

23rd Annual Lake Superior Biological Conference, September 26 - 27, 1986, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Treehaven Field Station, Tomahawk, WI. For further information on this natural resource conference, call Frank D. Bowers, Biology Dept., University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, (715) 346-4241 or 2159.

PESTICIDE AND GROUNDWATER: A HEALTH CONCERN FOR THE MIDWEST; a conference sponsored by the Freshwater Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 16 - 17, 1986. For further information, write Pesticide Conference, Freshwater Foundation, 2500 Shadywood Road, Box 90, Navarre, MN 55392 or call Paul Ripley at (612) 471-8407.

COASTWEEK '86 CELEBRATION- The League of Women Voters will be sponsoring the fifth annual Coastweek Celebration from September 20, 1986 until October 13, 1986 to commemorate the tremendous value of our nation's coastline. For a Coastweek Celebration organizing kit, write Barbara Fegan, Coordinator, Coastweek '86, Box 545, So. Wellfleet, MA

CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES TO HOST WATER QUALITY SUMMIT- On November 17 - 19, 1986 in Windsor, Ontario, The Center for Great Lakes will host a conference on the International Water Quality Agreement. Presentations will be made by governmental and non-governmental representatives from both the United States and Canada. For further information, contact Mike Donahue (312) 645-0901.

DIVERSION AND CONSUMPTIVE USE PAPERS RELEASED- The Center for the Great Lakes has released papers entitled "The Law and the Lakes: Towards a Legal Framework for Safeguarding the Great Lakes Water Supply; and Great Lakes Legal Seminar: Diversion and Consumptive Use." Prices are \$10.75 U.S., \$14.50 Canadian and \$9.00 U.S., \$12.50 Canadian, respectively. For further information, contact The Center for the Great Lakes, 435 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1408, Chicago, IL 60611.

NEXT ACTION UPDATE DEADLINE IS

SEPTEMBER 20TH

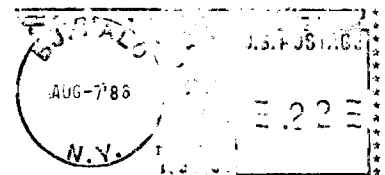
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