

thoroughness and impartiality. Perhaps its most important role in environmental protection is that of fact-finder and adviser to the two Governments under Article IX of the treaty, which permits the Governments to refer jointly many transboundary environmental problems for investigation and non-binding recommendation by the Commission.

The Commission's basic mandate under the Treaty concerns water-related problems. Because of its environmental responsibilities in the boundary area, the Governments in 1966 submitted a Reference to the IJC requesting it to inform them of transboundary air pollution problems which might come to the Commission's attention.

A United States/Canada Air Pollution Advisory Board, composed of technical personnel, was established to assist the Commission in this regard. The Commission also oversees implementation of the (1975) Michigan/Ontario Air Pollution Agreement, with the assistance of a Michigan/Ontario Air Pollution Board. In addition, as noted above, the Commission is concerned with air pollution in the Great Lakes basin pursuant to its responsibilities for assisting in the implementation of the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The role which the Commission plays under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is illustrative of the role which a bilateral institution can play in assisting Governments to implement a pollution abatement agreement. Under the Agreement the Commission's responsibilities include the collection and dissemination of information on the condition of Great Lakes waters and on the effectiveness of measures taken by the Governments to meet their commitments, provision of advice and recommendations to the two federal and state and provincial governments on matters relating to the Agreement, and assistance in the coordination of joint activities. The Commission is required to make a full report at least every two years and may make special reports at any time. The Commission is assisted in carrying out its responsibilities by a Water Quality Board and a Science Advisory Board, as well as a regional office.

Finally, arrangements for dealing specifically with transboundary air pollution through a Work Group framework were established by the 1980 Memorandum of Intent to assist the two Governments in preparing for negotiation of a transboundary air pollution agreement. Generally speaking, the Work Group formula is patterned on a similar structure which served both countries well in the development of the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the precursor of the 1978 Agreement. The other bilateral