

Of the 466 municipal waste-water treatment facilities requiring phosphorus removal in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes Basin, 218 are now providing phosphorus removal. By the end of 1975, it is anticipated that 300 will be providing phosphorus removal in accordance with objectives of the Agreement. During the same period, about 200 sewage treatment plants in Ontario are expected to employ phosphorus removal.

In response to continued United States concerns over the use of NTA as a substitute for phosphorus, both sides exchanged results of recent research in this area.

Both sides recognized that there was validity in the IJC's call for improved analysis of water quality data and undertook, with the aid of the Board structure established under the IJC, to increase the use of common procedures among the jurisdictions concerned and to place additional emphasis on data analysis. Both sides emphasized the importance of documenting the improvement of the Lakes both from the standpoint of ensuring that each country meets its commitments and in recognition that the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is the first major international pollution abatement activity ever attempted anywhere in the world.

United States EPA announced that its Chicago office has established a Great Lakes Surveillance Branch to analyze and interpret Great Lakes water quality data. The new branch is staffed by 8 professionals, and 7 additional staff positions will be added by the end of the year. The branch will work closely with the Chicago office's 33-man regional laboratory, which is primarily responsible for sample analysis and quality control.

Both sides outlined steps they were taking to respond to the Commission's conclusions regarding water-borne viruses and persistent contaminants. They expressed appreciation that the Commission in this area was drawing the Government's attention to future requirements in order to ensure maximum protection for the public.

The two sides discussed at length the Commission's comments on the need for compatible vessel waste regulations. The Canadian side emphasized the importance of having such regulations in place well before the target date in the Agreement and reported their readiness to promulgate existing draft Canadian regulations calling for high quality treatment. United States officials pointed out that the 1972 amendments to the Water Pollution Act require EPA to promulgate a regulation delineating procedures that would result in no discharge of sewage into some or all of the waters of a state following certain statutory actions by the state and EPA. In preliminary actions taken jointly with the Coast Guard, EPA is reexamining the vessel waste management program and the regulations that have been and must be promulgated to respond to the Act. Although no final decisions have been made, explorations are underway to focus on the compatibility of standards between the two governments. The United States EPA expects to propose a regulation on vessel waste soon.