

The Commission estimated that 60% of the sewered population in the United States portion of the Basin would have adequate treatment by the end of 1975, and called upon the United States Administration to release currently impounded United States federal grant funds for sewage treatment plant construction to avoid possible delays in future construction. The United States side expressed doubt that impoundment would lead to future delays and expressed confidence that if it appeared that such delays were likely to occur, sufficient funds would be released.

United States officials reported substantial progress in the United States municipal waste treatment construction program since the May 22 meeting of the governments in Washington, D.C. At that time, \$495 million had been granted to 156 projects in the Great Lakes system since signing the Agreement. Total costs for these projects, including federal, state and local funds was \$776 million. During the period May 22 to September 20, additional federal grants totalling \$245 million were awarded to 73 Great Lakes Basin projects, which involves a total expenditure of \$323 million. Since the signing of the Agreement, \$740 million in federal funds have been awarded to 221 projects in the Great Lakes system representing a total cost of over \$1.1 billion.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that during the May to September period, 51% of the \$480 million awarded for projects throughout the Great Lakes states went to projects in the Great Lakes Basin. This rate is considerably above the historical rate of 31%. To date, about 38% of the total Federal funds awarded in the Great Lakes states under the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act have been in the Great Lakes Basin.

Since the previous stocktaking meeting, Ontario reported that seven projects have been completed bringing the level of adequate sewage treatment facilities to 85% for the population served with sewers. Eighty-two per cent of the sewered population are now served with secondary treatment or equivalent facilities.

Both sides took satisfaction from the Commission's conclusion that the rate of increase in the historical degradation of the Lower Lakes, particularly Lake Erie, appeared to have been halted and that the phosphorus loading reductions called for in the Agreement were so far being met on both sides of the Basin.