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REVIEW OF GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canadian and U.S. negotiators have reached agreement on all major points of a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement at a meeting in Washington, D.C. May 11, 1978.

The Delegations examined and resolved the remaining differences of a single text of the Agreement produced by a Working Group since the last negotiating session in Ottawa on March 30. Both Delegations agreed to seek the necessary authorizations to sign the Agreement which, it is anticipated, would take place during June or July.

The draft Agreement strengthens the 1972 Agreement by requiring various additional programs and measures to meet problems in Great Lakes pollution control which were not evident or fully understood six years ago. These additions are intended to strengthen and renew commitments to control pollution from municipal and industrial sources; to address more effectively the control of persistent toxic substances and other pollutants; to identify air born pollutants entering the Great Lakes; to identify and control pollution from agricultural, forestry and other land use activities; and to provide better surveillance and monitoring mechanisms. It also includes provision aimed at further reducing phosphorus loadings and placing new limits on radioactivity.

The new draft Agreement also ensures that the valuable role of the International Joint Commission in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement will be continued.

The Canadian Delegation, headed by J. R. McKinney, Director-General of the Bureau of U.S.A. Affairs in the Department of External Affairs, included representatives of Environment Canada, Transport Canada and of the Province of Ontario. The U.S. Delegation, lead by Richard D. Vine, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Canadian Affairs, included representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Agriculture and the Great Lakes States.