



communiqué

No: 34
No.: 34



DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: MARCH 31, 1978

REVIEW OF CANADA-U.S. GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs announced today that a second round of negotiations aimed at revising the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was held in Ottawa on March 30, 1978. The Canadian delegation, headed by J.R. McKinney, Director General of the Bureau of USA Affairs in the Department of External Affairs, included representatives of Environment Canada, the Department of Transport, the Department of Public Works, and of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The U.S. delegation, led 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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Agriculture.

Both delegations agreed that the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has functioned well and provides a sound basis upon which to construct a more effective agreement.

Both sides have conducted extensive reviews of the present Agreement. Public hearings have been held in both countries. Based on these reviews and hearings, each side has prepared a revised draft text. Prior to the March 30 meeting these texts were exchanged. Based on this exchange of texts the two sides were able to reach substantial agreement on a number of areas including a more comprehensive approach to pollution control in the Great Lakes System, the continued need for the abatement control and prevention of pollution from municipal and industrial sources, revised objectives including the need for further reducing phosphorus loadings, new limits on radioactivity, the control of persistent toxic substances, and control of pollution from indirect sources such as land use and airborne pollutants.

In order to assist the completion of revisions to the Agreement, the delegations established two Bilateral Working Groups: one to prepare a new text on matters where agreement has been reached, and another to resolve outstanding questions identified at the meeting.

It is anticipated that a third round of negotiations will take place during May.