

6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall ensure that the Commission does not release any information that is protected or regulated under applicable law, unless it has consent of the owner.

ARTICLE 8

Commission Boards and Regional Office

1. The Parties hereby direct the Commission to establish a Great Lakes Water Quality Board, a Great Lakes Science Advisory Board, and a Great Lakes Regional Office to assist in exercising the powers and responsibilities assigned to it under this Agreement.

2. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board shall be the principal advisor to the Commission. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board shall be composed of an equal number of members from Canada and the United States. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board shall include representatives from the Parties and State and Provincial Governments and also may include representatives from Tribal Governments, First Nations, Métis, Municipal Governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, downstream jurisdictions, and the Public.

3. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board shall assist the Commission by:

- (a) reviewing and assessing progress of the Parties in implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) identifying emerging issues and recommending strategies and approaches for preventing and resolving the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes; and
- (c) providing advice on the role of relevant jurisdictions to implement these strategies and approaches.