

ANNEX 3

CHEMICALS OF MUTUAL CONCERN

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to contribute to the achievement of the General and Specific Objectives of this Agreement by protecting human health and the environment through cooperative and coordinated measures to reduce the anthropogenic release of chemicals of mutual concern into the Waters of the Great Lakes, recognizing:

1. that chemicals of mutual concern released into the air, water, land, sediment, and biota should not result in impairment to the quality of the Waters of the Great Lakes;
2. the need to manage chemicals of mutual concern including, as appropriate, by implementing measures to achieve virtual elimination and zero discharge of these chemicals;
3. the importance of a life-cycle management approach to minimize risks and environmental impacts of chemicals of mutual concern and products containing chemicals of mutual concern;
4. that the Public can contribute to achieving reductions of the environmental impact of chemicals of mutual concern and products containing chemicals of mutual concern by using safer and less harmful chemicals and adopting technologies that reduce or eliminate the uses and releases of chemicals of mutual concern;
5. the susceptibility of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem to the negative impact of chemicals of mutual concern, due to the economic activity level and population density in the region, as well as the unique characteristics of the ecosystem;