

half of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shows that SO₂ emissions have been cut by 24 percent in the U.S. and by 44 percent in Canada.

Unfortunately, these initial efforts did not address the problem of the long-range transportation of pollutants.

Canada has responded to the problem with a specific program which will reduce SO₂ emissions east of the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border by 50 percent of allowable 1980 levels by 1994, and NO_x emissions from vehicles by 45 percent by the year 2000. The overall goal is to reduce acid deposition to less than 18 pounds per acre, per year—the level that halts the acidification of additional lakes and permits the gradual recovery of those already acidified. This goal cannot be achieved, however, without similar reductions in the United States.

Canada has suggested that since the solution to the transboundary problem of acid rain must involve both the U.S. and Canada, they sign an accord which would permit concerted actions to achieve agreed-upon goals within a specific timetable.



THE GREAT LAKES

The Great Lakes are North America's largest concentration of richly productive commercial and recreational waters.

For some 70 years Canada and the U.S. have worked together to keep the lakes and their tributaries clean and productive.

Erie, the shallowest lake, has had the greatest pollution problems; Superior,

which is the deepest, is relatively pollution-free.

The joint management venture began with the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, which created the Canada/U.S. International Joint Commission, to settle disputes.*

*The commission has offices and staffs in Ottawa and Washington, Windsor and Detroit. It has separate boards for each of the Great Lakes and associated lakes and each of the tributary rivers. Additional boards monitor water quality and air pollution.



International Joint Commission

A Sampling of Treaties and Other Agreements Concerned with the Environment

1909: Boundary Waters Treaty, creating the International Joint Commission.

1916: Convention on migratory birds.

1972: Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality. Renewed and expanded in 1978 and 1987.

1980: Memorandum of intent concerning transboundary air pollution.

1982: Agreement on management of radioactive waste.

1986: North American Waterfowl Management Agreement.

S.S.C. Photo Centre, John Parr Teller

