

mission shall have the authority to establish as it may deem appropriate such subordinate bodies as may be required to undertake specific tasks, as well as a regional office, which may be located in the basin of the Great Lakes System, to assist it in the discharge of its functions under this Agreement. The Commission shall also consult the Parties about the site and staffing of any regional office that might be established.

2. The Commission shall submit an annual budget of anticipated expenses to be incurred in carrying out its responsibilities under this Agreement to the Parties for approval. Each Party shall seek funds to pay one-half of the annual budget so approved, but neither Party shall be under an obligation to pay a larger amount than the other toward this budget.

ARTICLE VIII

Submission and Exchange of Information

1. The International Joint Commission shall be given at its request any data or other information relating to the quality of the boundary waters of the Great Lakes System in accordance with procedures to be established, within three months of the entry into force of this Agreement or as soon thereafter as possible, by the Commission in consultation with the Parties and with the State and Provincial Governments.

2. The Commission shall make available to the Parties and to the State and Provincial Governments upon request all data or other information furnished to it in accordance with this Article.

3. Each Party shall make available to the other at its request any data or other information in its control relating to the quality of the waters of the Great Lakes System.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Commission shall not release without the consent of the owner any information identified as proprietary information under the law of the place where such information has been acquired.

ARTICLE IX

Consultation and Review

1. Following the receipt of each report submitted to the Parties by the International Joint Commission in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article VI of this Agreement, the Parties shall consult on the recommendations contained in such report and shall consider such action as may be appropriate, including:

- (a) The modification of existing water quality objectives and the adoption of new objectives;
- (b) The modification or improvement of programs and joint measures;
- (c) The amendment of this Agreement or any annex thereto.

Additional consultations may be held at the request of either Party on any matter arising out of the implementation of this Agreement.