

## SUMMARY OF IJC REPORT

The International Joint Commission after an extensive investigation has transmitted its report on transboundary air pollution in the Detroit and St. Clair River areas to the Governments of Canada and the United States.

The Commission's inquiry involved a meteorological study of the two areas, measurement of the contamination of air masses crossing the International Boundary, identification and quantification of the sources of transboundary air pollution and determination of the resulting adverse effects. Public hearings were conducted by the Commission at Port Huron and Windsor in 1967 and again at Sarnia and Detroit in 1971. The salient points put forth at these hearings are summarized and paraphrased in the Commission's report.

With regard to the Detroit River area, the Commission found that particulates and sulphur dioxide flowing from United States sources to most of the Windsor area were, on an annual basis, in concentrations which exceeded the Ontario criteria; and in the western part of the city double the limit set out in the Ontario criteria. On the other hand, the contribution of contaminants from Canadian sources to the Detroit area were, on an annual basis, only a fraction of the United States secondary standards and were confined to a small area near Belle Isle. The high level of air pollution in the remainder of Metropolitan Detroit was due to emissions originating within that jurisdiction.

With regard to the St. Clair River area the Commission found that the transboundary flow of particulates from Canadian sources to over a square mile of Port Huron was, on an annual basis, about half of the United States secondary standard; and the flow of sulphur dioxide from Canadian sources to over two square miles of Port Huron, on an annual basis, approached the United States secondary standard. The malodours experienced in Port Huron and Marine City, Michigan, were due to transboundary movement. The transboundary flow of particulates from United States to over ten square miles of Sarnia was, on an annual basis, half of the Ontario criterion; and the flow of sulphur dioxide from United States sources to over 17 square miles of the Canadian area opposite and south of St. Clair, Michigan, on an annual basis, exceeded the Ontario criterion. With the exception of a few square miles of Sarnia the ambient air quality on both sides of the St. Clair River would meet the Ontario criteria and the United States secondary standards if it were not for the transboundary flow of contaminants.

The principal sources of particulates and sulphur dioxide in the Detroit River area were the steam-electric power plants and metallurgical industries in Wayne County, Michigan. The principal sources of contaminants in the St. Clair River area were the steam-electric power plants in Michigan and the oil refineries and chemical industries near Sarnia.

With due regard for economic and social considerations, the severity of effects of specific contaminants and the technological feasibility of controlling their emissions, the Commission found that particulate removal from large point sources would provide the most significant and immediate improvement in air quality. Because of the damage to property and the adverse impact on health of sulphur dioxide when combined with particulate matter, the control of sulphur dioxide emissions are also extremely important.

The Commission concluded that there is an urgent need for bi-national contingency plans to reduce emissions of contaminants during adverse atmospheric conditions. The Commission stressed that there is need for both countries to have consistent air quality standards in the Detroit River and St. Clair River