



# Agenda For Action



## VISION

### **Environmental**

A sustainable environment where air, water, and land resources are restored and protected to benefit all life

### **Operational**

Together, we can solve environmental problems with communities in common-sense ways.

## MISSION

### **Our mission is to:**

Protect human health and preserve natural resources.

Prevent and abate pollution to improve the environment.

Serve the public with education, innovation, action, and results.

Lead the way in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and all midwestern ecosystems.

September 1998  
To All Region 5 Staff

As we approach a new millennium, we must continue our commitment to solving environmental problems to improve the quality of life. This has been a very productive year throughout the Region, and all of us can take pride in the roles we have played in our overall success.

The five regional environmental priorities and EPA's national program priorities remain the focal point of Region 5's Agenda for Action. This year, we have fine-tuned our regional priorities to more clearly reflect their alignment with the national priorities, aimed at helping us advance toward the 10 goals set out in EPA's Strategic Plan. This focus will help us to identify and solve the new and challenging environmental problems that await us in the 21st century.

This Agenda for Action also more clearly defines the role of our programs and teams, how they fit into the bigger picture of the work carried out in support of our priorities, and how they contribute to the environmental progress of the Region. It also clearly recognizes that our partnerships with the States, local governments, tribes, and other stakeholders continue to be key in environmental improvement and in our success as a Region.

With emphasis on enforcement and compliance, as well as community-based approaches, we believe the greatest level of environmental progress can be achieved. By integrating our efforts as individuals, programs, teams, and partner agencies, we can successfully identify environmental problems, set priorities, and take action to solve these problems.

At the same time, we will continue to focus our efforts on workforce development. Internally, the implementation of our Diversity Action Plan is our highest priority. We have a quality, diverse workforce and want to expand opportunities for all people to advance and play a significant role in our success.

Each year, we are faced with new and challenging issues, but I strongly believe that with team effort, renewed commitment, and efficient use of our resources, we can move into a new century of environmental progress with confidence. Let's work together to make this a reality.



David A. Ullrich  
Acting Regional Administrator

EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment — air, water, and land. To more effectively focus on its mission, EPA has developed 10 strategic, long-term goals that express the environmental outcomes we are all working toward: clean air, water, and land, safe food, homes, and workplaces; global environmentalism, sound science, greater compliance with environmental laws, and management integrity and access to environmental information for all Americans. Embodying these 10 goals, EPA's Strategic Plan sets the course for EPA in the coming years and defines the standards against which EPA's progress will be judged.

This plan is dynamic and flexible. The goals respond to the many complex and varied environmental problems we seek to deal with. As a blueprint for progress, the Strategic Plan allows EPA to focus on priority environmental problems and to sustain environmental protection in the future.

This edition of Region 5's Agenda for Action demonstrates our commitment to the Strategic Plan and the 10 National Goals. Regardless of Division or Office, all of the Region's work can be linked to one of the 10 goals. These goals support the multimedia approach that will be needed to cope with the increasingly serious environmental problems we face. Regional offices, individually and as a group, do not play a role in every aspect of every National Goal. This Agenda for Action highlights where Region 5, working with and through its State, local, and tribal partners, will significantly contribute to the overall achievement of these goals

EPA Region 5 has identified a number of challenging environmental issues facing the Midwest: the ubiquitous presence of toxic substances, the continuous urban expansion into rural and agricultural areas, the resulting abandonment of urban Brownfields areas, the loss of critical habitat, the disproportionate exposure to environmental risks of children and some minority populations, and the challenge of cleaning up contaminated sediments. These regional priorities will require coordinated efforts which move beyond any single legislative authority. Comprehensive, multimedia responses, which combine multiple agencies and resources with public support and commitment, will lead to successes in these regional priority areas and ultimately make solid contributions toward achieving the Strategic Goals.

## **Reducing Toxics**

Releases of toxic substances have caused serious adverse effects in humans and damage to the environment. High levels of toxic contaminants, particularly mercury and PCB's in fish, have resulted in advisories for restricted consumption of sport fish and threaten the health of populations

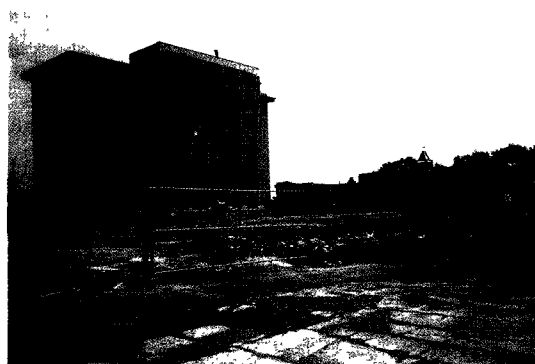
that rely heavily on the Region's fisheries for subsistence. Increasing evidence points to certain hormone-mimicking substances as primary suspects in the inability of native fish populations to reproduce naturally.

Finally, decreasing populations of and increasing deformities among amphibians in the Region are believed to be linked to low but pervasive levels of toxicants in the environment. Region 5 has made the reduced release of toxicants into the environment a priority. And

continues to assure the public that efforts of the Region, States, tribes, and other groups to reduce toxicants reflect a multimedia perspective, are as effective as possible, and use sound science and technology. In particular, the Region will undertake actions outlined in the recently developed Binational Strategy for the Virtual Elimination of Toxic Substances, and will pursue sector-specific approaches, such as the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the American Hospital Association on pollution prevention in health care facilities.



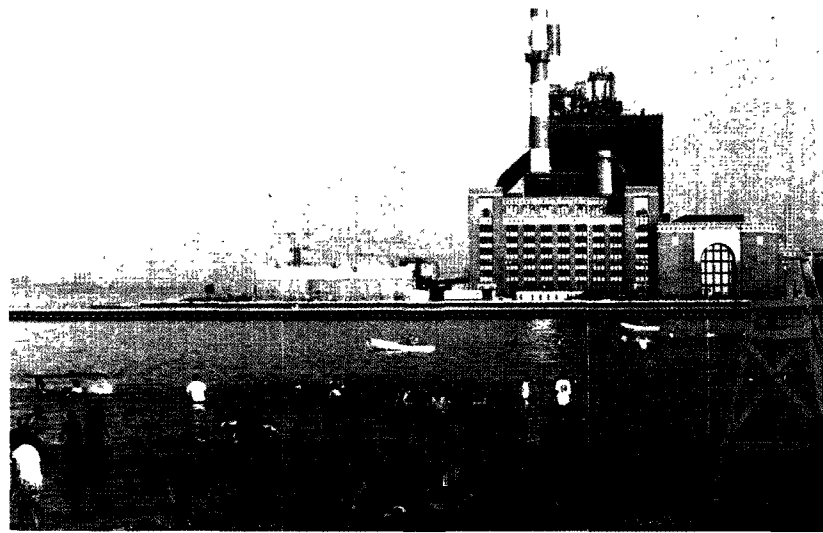
## Promoting Sustainable Urban Environments and Redeveloping Brownfields



Urban land use has exploded over the past few decades without significant increases in population. For example, from 1970 to 1990, Cleveland's population fell 11 percent, while surrounding urban land increased by 33 percent. From 1980 to 1990 in Northeastern Illinois, population rose by 41 percent, while land used for residential development increased by 46 percent and land used for commercial and industrial development increased by 74 percent.

This trend is expected to continue throughout the Midwest. Only slight population increases are predicted in the urban cores, while expansion into metropolitan Greenfield areas continues at double-digit rates. These patterns increase our dependency on the automobile (resulting in more air pollution), degrade or

destroy natural areas and habitats, increase flooding and nonpoint-source water pollution, and take away resources needed to deal with problems in older communities. One of the many environmentally conscious alternatives to such runaway, unplanned expansion is the redevelopment of abandoned urban industrial sites— Brownfields. Actual and perceived environmental contamination, and the threat of incurring cleanup liability, leave thousands of these sites ignored in most redevelopment schemes, feeding the perception of social abandonment, as well as furthering industrial decline. Other environmentally conscious development alternatives, or smart-growth techniques, exist in every location — from urban core to exurban fringe. Working with State and local governments, other Federal agencies, and regional authorities, we can help identify strategies that can lead to more sustainable development and a higher quality of life for communities.



## **Protecting People at Risk, especially Children and Environmental Justice Communities**

Over the last decade, concern about the impact of environmental pollution on certain population groups has been growing. Studies have shown that children, low-income groups, and minority populations are most likely to suffer disproportionately from environmental pollution. The Region is committed to answering the human health and environmental needs of these population groups. Through

increased education and community outreach, targeted health and environmental research, compliance assurance, improved public access to information, and the creation of stakeholder partnerships, the Region aims to achieve its environmental justice goals

## Cleaning Up Sediments

Polluted sediments are the largest major source of contaminants to the Great Lakes food chain, and over 2,000 miles of the shoreline are considered impaired. The Region 5 sediment inventory lists 346 contaminated-sediment sites. Fish consumption advisories remain in place throughout the Great Lakes and many inland lakes. Contaminated sediments also cause restrictions and delays in the dredging of navigable waterways, which in turn can negatively affect local and regional economies. Contaminated sediments must be cleaned up — before they move downstream or into open waters, which makes them inaccessible and cleanup impossible.



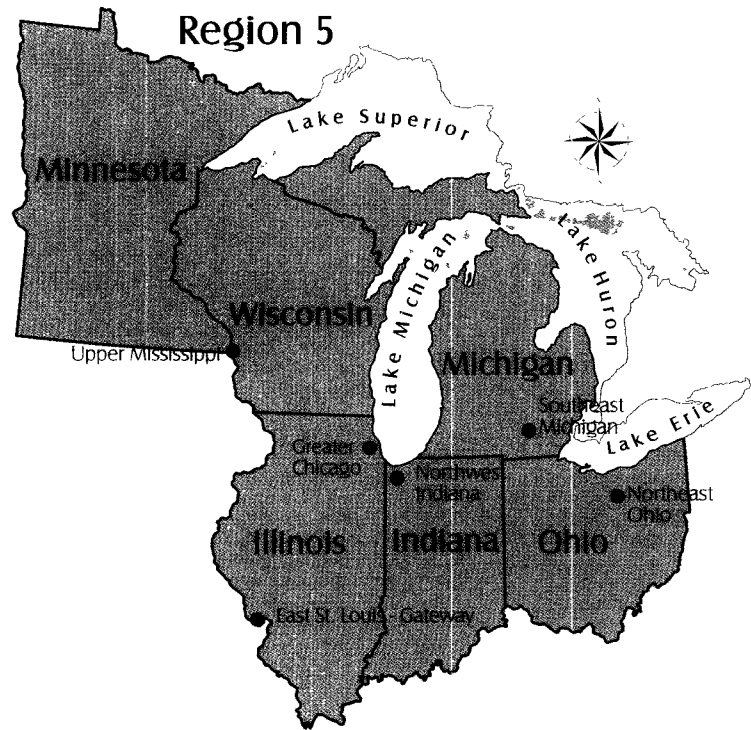
## Protecting and Restoring Critical Ecosystems



As the Midwest has grown in population and economic strength over the last 150 years, nearly 88 percent of its wetlands, 70 percent of its forests, and 98 percent of its prairies have been lost due to industrial growth, agricultural uses, invasion of alien species, and human habitation in cities and towns. Therefore, the remaining ecosystem remnants must be protected or restored for the survival of many species, including humans. A healthy economy and healthy ecosystems can coexist. We will inventory

and assess the Region's most important ecosystems and, with our partners, we will identify problems and take action to protect and restore these natural areas

To help develop and carry out the kind of innovative solutions needed to solve these environmental problems, Region 5 has selected nine priority geographic areas in which to focus its efforts. They are the Great Lakes (particularly Lakes Erie, Superior, and Michigan), Upper Mississippi River, Northwest Indiana, Greater Chicago, Southeast Michigan, Northeast Ohio, and Gateway-East St. Louis. In these key geographic areas, EPA works in partnership with communities to reach common environmental goals



## Regional Implementation of Critical Approaches

To solve environmental problems most effectively, Region 5 supports EPA's critical approaches to problem-solving, which reinforce how work gets done. Although every approach is not applicable to every environmental priority or principal place, the use of these tools will greatly enhance our ability to achieve better environmental results. The critical approaches are:



- ◆ **Enforcement and Compliance Assurance:** Provides strong enforcement and ensures compliance through an array of traditional and innovative approaches, to deter future violations and protect public health and the environment.
- ◆ **Pollution Prevention:** Advances the widespread implementation of pollution prevention practices as a first choice within public and private sectors
- ◆ **Risk and Science-Based Environmental Protection:** Supports the generation and consideration of technically sound, publicly accessible scientific information.
- ◆ **Measuring and Managing for Environmental Results:** Evaluates conditions, identifies problems, sets environmental priorities, and measures performance as needed to solve environmental problems.
- ◆ **Partnerships with States, Local Governments, other Federal Agencies, and other Nations:** Uses the partnership concept for collaboration and sharing in environmental areas of common interest.
- ◆ **Community-Based Environmental Protection:** Improves EPA's ability to achieve the best environmental results, by collaborating with others to solve environmental problems in specific places.
- ◆ **Trust Responsibility for Indian Tribes:** Carries out environmental programs on Indian lands, where tribes do not have authority or infrastructure to do the work on their own.
- ◆ **Regulatory Innovation:** Develops and provides new approaches to the existing regulatory framework— approaches that are more efficient and flexible, reward creativity and outstanding performance, and more effectively protect human health and the environment.
- ◆ **Human Resource Investment for Change:** Invests in employees through recruitment, training, and education, among other things, to ensure the necessary leadership in environmental programs and the retention of a high-quality, diverse workforce.
- ◆ **Customer Focus:** Provides the best service possible to our customers, through enhanced public communications and improvements based on feedback.

Region 5 programs — Air and Radiation Division, Water Division, Superfund Division, and Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division — administer the principal environmental laws. These laws remain the primary means for environmental management, and our Division and Office organizational structure generally reflects the most significant program elements. The Great Lakes National Program Office, housed in Region 5, takes the lead in developing and carrying out a broad range of programs for restoring and maintaining the integrity of the Great Lakes Basin.

Many of our priorities, key areas, and critical approaches operate as multimedia teams, meaning they take into account air, water, and land pollution in a given area. The teams work with many agencies at all levels of government and with communities to establish goals and priorities based on local needs.

Region 5 includes several organizations that are critical to the success of the program Divisions and Offices, Teams, and the Regional Senior Leadership Team. Our Resources Management Division provides resource services to employees, as well as contract, grant, and finance mechanisms to external partners. Our Office of Public Affairs provides public education, information, and involvement services. Our Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis frames emerging issues, pilots new multi-media programs, and develops environmental management approaches, such as *community-based environmental protection and regulatory innovation*. Our Office of International Activities coordinates environmental technical assistance to other countries. Our Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance serves as the regional focal point for enforcement and compliance assistance. In addition, the Office of Regional Counsel provides legal services to the Region, and the Office of Inspector General does audits and investigations, to ensure that our partnerships and approaches remain legal and defensible.

Recognizing that our employees are our most important resource, Region 5 works cooperatively with the American Federation of Government Employees, the union representing regional staff, to further our goals for employee diversity and development. Region 5 also uses Special-Emphasis Program Managers to coordinate and promote diversity in our workforce, serving as *liaisons between management and staff*.

To be successful, we must work with the Region 5 States, local agencies, and tribes in partnerships, which take advantage of each organization's experience, individual priorities, and common goals. As public funds continue to decrease, greater cooperation and coordination are needed to make the most of the strengths and resources of each agency. *Developing and sustaining relationships with each of these partners is critical to ensuring that the National Goals are achieved*

This Agenda for Action is a roadmap of EPA's regional and national priorities as they exist today. Although Region 5 is a unique entity, with conditions and circumstances perhaps seen nowhere else, our priorities and problems are part of the larger vision of a sustainable environment where air, water, and land resources are restored and protected to benefit all life. In keeping with this vision, all regional programs and teamwork have been linked to their appropriate National Goals and described in the following sections. To keep this document manageable, we have focused on major program areas and new initiatives. Individual plans supporting the priorities, places, and approaches have been developed and are available through the contact list in the back of this document

In 1995, EPA embarked on a far-reaching reinvention plan to change basic approaches to planning, budgeting, performance measures, and accountability. The purpose of this effort was to more clearly define the linkages between EPA's policy goals and measure environmental results and resources in a manner that allows the American public to assess our accomplishments and provide useful feedback for making future decisions. EPA developed a Strategic Plan as a result of these reinventions, as required under the Government Performance and Results Act. This plan describes EPA's mission and 10 specific national goals which serve as the framework for EPA's planning and resource allocation decisions. Using this framework, we can ensure that our programs and day-to-day activities support the achievement of our goals. EPA's Strategic Plan shows a willingness by EPA to identify and use alternative approaches, to complement traditional regulatory measures, resulting in greater environmental improvements in a more cost-effective manner.

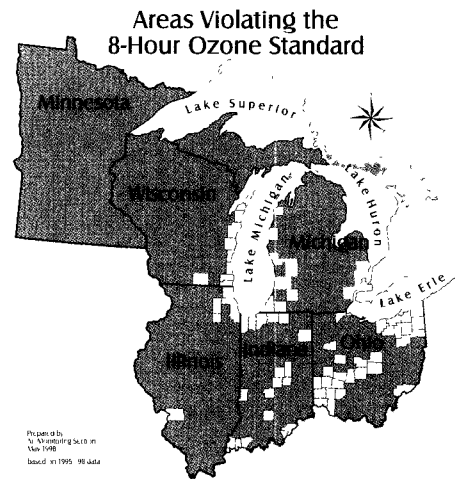
*The air in every American community will be safe and healthy to breathe. In particular, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments will be protected from health risks of breathing polluted air. Reducing air pollution will also protect the environment, resulting in many benefits, such as restoring life in damaged ecosystems and reducing health risks to those whose subsistence depends directly on those ecosystems*

## National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The purpose of this program is to achieve the health based NAAQS for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), ozone, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulates, and lead. Through control programs affecting large industrial sources, mobile sources, and a wide array of smaller facilities, significant progress has been made in areas that had not met the NAAQS for a given pollutant. Recently, the State of Minnesota submitted a plan that shows the Minneapolis-St. Paul area meeting the CO standard. And Illinois no longer has any SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment areas. All remaining SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment areas in Region 5 have ambient SO<sub>2</sub> levels below the standards and are expected to be redesignated as attainment in the near future.

Region 5 is also working with tribes as to what, if any, Clean Air Act authorities they wish to have under the Tribal Authority Rule. Until such programs are approved, Region 5 will directly implement the act's requirements on tribal lands

## Ozone



Ozone nonattainment is the most widespread air quality problem in Region 5. In 1997, a new ozone standard was adopted, based on the most recent scientific studies, which indicate that long-term exposure to lower levels of ozone can be bad for your health. It is expected that many areas in Region 5 will violate the new 0.08 parts per million, 8-hour standard. Recent air quality modeling has shown that transport of ozone and its precursors—volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and  $\text{NO}_x$ —over long distances block the efforts of attaining the ozone standard in many areas. Based on this modeling, EPA is requiring 22 States in the eastern half of the country to reduce emissions of  $\text{NO}_x$ , particularly from larger power plants, in an effort to lower the amount of ozone transported to other Regions. For many areas,

this should result in attainment of the ozone standard without any further local controls. Region 5 will continue to help States and the public on development of the  $\text{NO}_x$  reduction plans and associated emissions trading programs, as well as any other control programs, to reach the desired reductions in  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions.

## Monitoring, especially PM 2.5

A fundamental component of air quality programs is the underlying monitoring network that provides information on ambient air quality. One of the EPA's highest priorities is the establishment of a monitoring network to measure concentrations of fine particles (usually products of combustion) in the air. This data is necessary to use the newly established NAAQS for fine particles, which have been shown to cause lung disease. Region 5 is helping our States create a network of more than 200 monitors to measure background concentrations, such as those in more rural areas, as well as concentrations in our industrial urban settings. This information will help determine which areas will need to develop control strategies to reduce emission of particulates.

## Proposed PM 2.5 Monitoring Network



Prepared by  
Air Monitoring Section  
May 1998

### Air Toxics

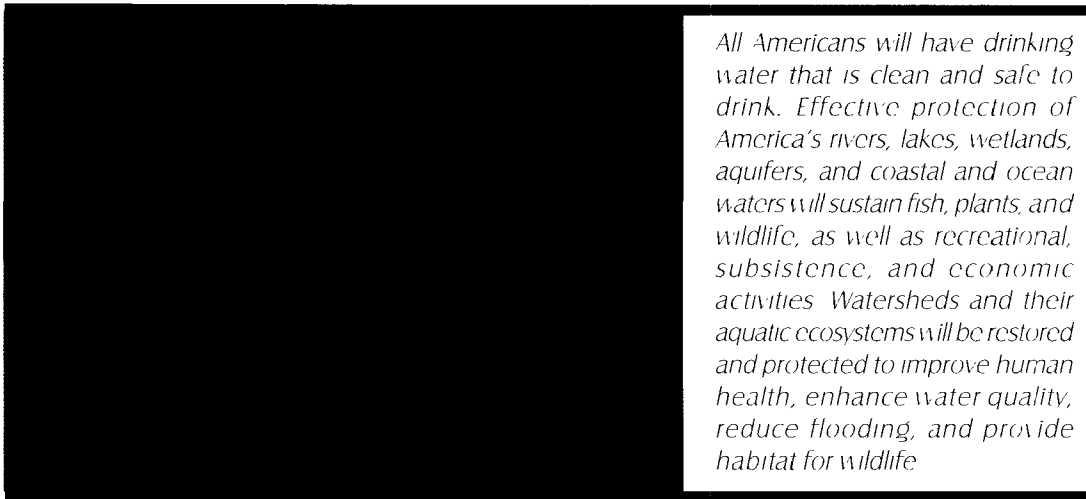
Because many toxic pollutants are also VOC's, existing ozone control programs have already helped reduce regional emission of toxics. For example, reductions have come from the introduction of enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance programs, and cleaner, reformulated gasoline, just to name a few. An analysis of monitoring data from two sites along the shores of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin showed about a 50 percent reduction in ambient benzene concentrations from 1994 to 1995, especially in late July and August. Reformulated gasoline— which is required in the Greater Chicago and Milwaukee ozone nonattainment areas during summer months to help cut ozone levels — is believed to be responsible for this reduction.

Emission standards to reduce air toxics from 174 source categories of industrial facilities are also being developed. Region 5 will oversee implementation of these standards to the States and provide technical assistance and training as each standard is developed. Illinois and Wisconsin now have full authority, and Region 5 is working with Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio to achieve full State implementation.

### Permitting

Air permitting programs provide the documentation necessary to cut emissions from industrial sources, to help meet Clean Air Act goals. The Title V operating permit program, for example, will, in one document, define how the facility must be operated in order to be in compliance. All Region 5 States have full or interim Title V program approvals. While resolution of program concerns will continue,

effective permit issuance is now the priority. As of June 1998, some 8 percent of an expected 3,900 Title V permits have been issued. We expect the rate of permit issuance will increase in the near future.

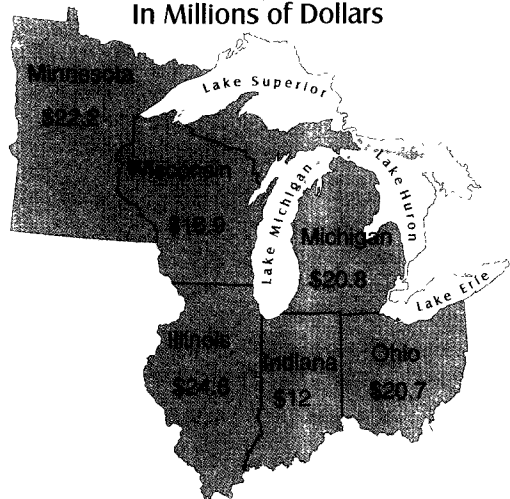


*All Americans will have drinking water that is clean and safe to drink. Effective protection of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and coastal and ocean waters will sustain fish, plants, and wildlife, as well as recreational, subsistence, and economic activities. Watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems will be restored and protected to improve human health, enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife.*

## Healthy Watersheds

One of our objectives is to restore and protect our watersheds so that 75 percent support healthy aquatic communities by 2005. In Region 5, 28 percent of river and stream miles and 36 percent of inland lake acres were assessed by the States for their 1996 water quality reports. Of those assessed, 67 percent of river and stream miles and 87 percent of inland lake are supporting healthy aquatic communities. The Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) sets out a step-wise process to identify and restore watersheds not meeting water goals and increases financial and technical assistance to States, tribes, local governments, farmers, and others. Other watershed restoration strategies include: strengthening standards programs and implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative (GLI), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) implemented through permits and other actions, polluted runoff reductions implemented through storm water permitting and targeting of the Clean Water Act Section 319 program and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program funds, source water protection programs, and advanced identification of wetlands.

### Section 319 Funding From 1990 - 1998, In Millions of Dollars



Section 319 of the Clean Water Act describes EPA's involvement in nonpoint-source control, which most frequently takes the form of nonpoint-source assessment, management, and grant award programs. As a result of increased State and Federal regulation on point sources, nonpoint sources cause most of water pollution problems in the United States today. Nonpoint-source pollution refers to runoff from agricultural land, hydrologic modification (including the installation of dams), urban pollution such as street litter and road salt, and improper use and disposal of lawn care, household, and automotive wastes. The resulting pollutants, including metals, pesticides, nutrients, sediment, and organic matter, can infiltrate the ground-water supply and wind up in other

bodies of water. For FY 98, the national budget for Section 319 programs was \$105 million, with some 18 percent of that amount allocated to Region 5. The figure below shows the proportion of Section 319 resources given to each State in Region 5. We will continue to provide funding, as well as technical and program assistance to States for dealing with nonpoint-source pollution.

Coordination with other Federal agencies, and integration of our tools and approaches, will be essential to our success. We will work in partnership with our State regulatory agencies, the Department of Agriculture, and representatives of the agricultural community to develop a Region 5 strategy to cope with pollution from animal feeding operations. We will work to reduce air deposition of mercury through a pilot TMDL. We will continue to look at ways to integrate the authorities and strategies of the Clean and Safe Drinking Water Acts so that we can take full advantage of their complementary goals. For example, we will encourage flexible use of the CWA State Revolving Fund (SRF) to reduce nonpoint-source pollution. And we will ensure that source water protection is considered by the States in the development of CWAP watershed restoration strategies.

## New Drinking Water Rules and Regulations

We will work with our partners—States, tribes, and public water systems—to ensure the appropriate uses of the Drinking Water SRF and to ensure the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of all water supply systems, especially small systems, to help prevent noncompliance with drinking-water standards. Region 5 has 40 percent of the Nation's noncommunity systems, such as schools and

day-care facilities. In keeping with our priority of children's health, we will ensure that these facilities are in compliance with all safe drinking-water requirements.

We will work with States and tribes to develop source water assessment programs, due from States to EPA for review in early 1999, and to encourage the development and implementation of source water protection programs. We will increase our protection of ground-water resources by effectively managing all Class I, II, and III injection wells where we are directly implementing the program. And we will increase our efforts to identify and deal with high-risk Class V wells in high priority protection areas. Successes in these and other efforts will help reach our goal: 95 percent of the population served by community water systems whose drinking water meets all the health-based standards by 2005.

## **Tribal Programs**

Region 5 will work with tribes to develop tribal water environmental programs and enhance their capability to apply for Treatment as a State (TAS). We will use Tribal-EPA Agreements (TEA's) and Tribal Blueprints to establish multiyear priorities and funding strategies and to identify those aspects of the water program to be implemented by the tribe and those to be directly implemented by EPA. We will provide training for tribes on nonpoint-source pollution and development of *Quality Assurance Project Plans*. Finally, we will work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the States, and tribes to identify, assess, and restore priority watersheds through implementation of the Clean Water Action Plan.

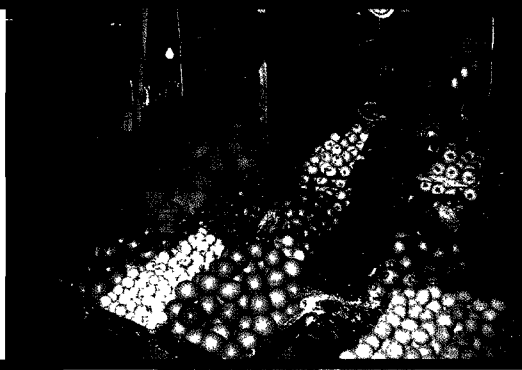
## **Work in Principal Places**

Region 5 will play a leadership role in assessing and restoring priority watersheds that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The Upper Mississippi River, which forms the western boundary of Region 5, transports roughly 90 cubic kilometers of water annually past Cairo, IL. (This excludes flows from the Ohio and Missouri Rivers.) We will work with all partners to deal with the problems of excessive nutrient loading, habitat loss, and sedimentation. Region 5 will work with Regions 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 to identify specific actions in sub-watersheds of the Mississippi River, applying tools such as Section 319 funding, use of the CWA SRF, and strategic use of point-source permitting tools, including animal feeding operations. On April 17, 1998, Region 5 signed an agreement with Environment Canada, Ministry of the Environment of Ontario, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to provide leadership in



implementing the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). We will work with the State, industry, local governments, and citizens to implement recommendations in the RAP

*The foods Americans eat will be free from unsafe pesticide residues. Children, especially, will be protected from the health threats posed by pesticide residues because they are among the most vulnerable groups in our society.*



The safe use of pesticides during production, processing, storage, and transportation is critical to our Nation's food supply. EPA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides and their uses and coordinates its food-safety program with the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, who monitor pesticide residues in meat and other foods, collect authoritative data on patterns of food consumption, and protect food from biological contamination

The registration and tracking of pesticides is done centrally through EPA's Headquarters. As a result of the Food Quality Protection Act, both of EPA's principal pesticide regulatory authorities were amended, requiring a comprehensive reassessment of legally permissible levels of pesticide residues or tolerances. The act requires that no pesticide residue be permitted when there is less than "a reasonable certainty that no harm" will occur from exposure to that residue, with children and other vulnerable populations being a specific concern. To assist in this undertaking, the State of Michigan has signed a cooperative agreement with Region 5 to work with commodity groups in the State, collect accurate pesticide-usage and residue data on minor crops, and support these tolerance reassessments.

Region 5 will continue to promote use of alternative pesticides and pest control practices through integrated pest management, outreach, and pesticide stewardship grants



*Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at cost-effectively eliminating, reducing, or minimizing emissions and contamination will result in a cleaner and safer environment in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this Nation.*

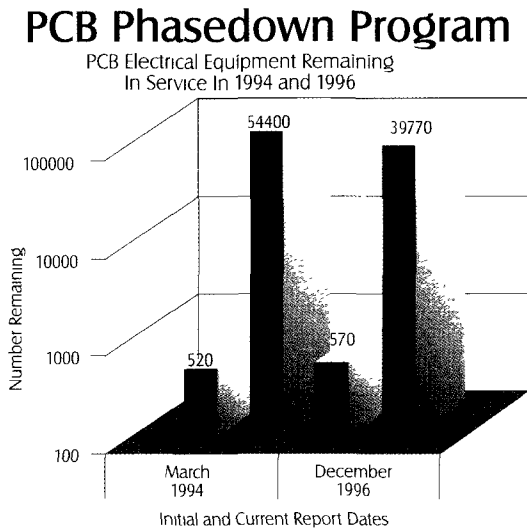
Region 5 made great strides in recent years in building upon and expanding our partnerships with trade associations, States, and other members of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention (P2) Roundtable. The Region will continue to integrate P2 activities into all regional program plans, environmental performance partnership agreements, and annual program plans and memoranda of agreement with national program managers. Along with our partners, the Region will target priority persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals for prevention and waste minimization efforts. The Region will also continue to promote voluntary initiatives and joint P2, waste minimization, or recycling efforts with tribal, State, and local governments, other Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and industry; continue to support our partners via granting mechanisms, technical assistance, and outreach; and continue to evaluate, measure, and communicate to our customers the effectiveness of our P2, hazardous waste minimization, and recycling efforts. The following are highlights of representative efforts.

## **Reducing Lead Exposure**

Region 5 will continue to move aggressively on reducing lead exposure in the coming years, with emphasis on protecting young children — who are most at risk — and building State and tribal programs to more effectively manage and reduce lead hazards. We will continue to focus on outreach and education, especially in high-risk neighborhoods, and helping States and tribes, without enabling legislation, to qualify for Federal authorization of their lead-based-paint training and certification programs. We will carry out the Federal program in States that lack an approved program and will also start lead-related enforcement under the real estate notification and disclosure rule.

## Reducing PCB's

Region 5 plays a leadership role in the phase-out of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). PCB's are manmade chemicals once widely used in electrical equipment and as heat transfer and hydraulic fluids. PCB's are highly toxic and are extremely persistent in the environment. Although EPA banned the manufacturing of PCB's in 1979, removal of PCB's already in use was not required. The PCB Phasedown Program encourages industry to voluntarily phase out and remove their remaining PCB equipment. In the utility industry, where PCB's are found in transformers and capacitors, Region 5 has made significant progress in getting utilities to remove PCB-contaminated equipment through voluntary actions and enforcement negotiations. We will continue our work with utilities in the Region and then move our focus to other, larger industries.



## Indoor Air

The Regional indoor air program's priority areas include radon exposure in homes and schools, children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, implementation of EPA's "Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools Program" in the Region's public and private schools, and developing partnerships with commercial office building owners and operators. Our ultimate goal is to have cleaner air for all Americans, and these efforts place particular emphasis on ensuring better air quality for children.

Success is possible only through partnerships with consumers, manufacturers, school districts, and other State and local agencies. The Region provides funding to a dozen statewide coalitions to advance implementation of the IAQ Tools for Schools, radon efforts, and other indoor-air quality programs. Through its own outreach, the Region has signed on more than 200 schools for the voluntary program, which provides information and checklists to improve indoor-air quality and children's health in schools.

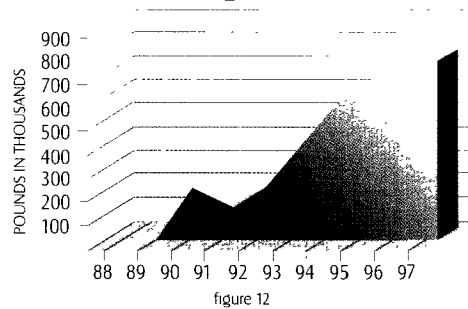
## Tribal Environmental Assessments

Region 5 is actively participating in a national Workgroup for Baseline Assessment of Indian Country, which will assemble, in an easy to use and accessible format, the environmental data identified as most important to support sound environmental planning and management, both for the tribes and for EPA. For all programs, Region 5 will focus its energy on carrying out our trust responsibility through direct implementation or authorization of the programs to tribal authorities with appropriate training and support. We will continue to develop predictive and effective communication links with the tribes (e.g., Clean Water On-Line) and enhance partnerships to resolve transboundary issues.

## Pesticide Management

Region 5 works in close partnership with various State agencies and universities to reach the large population of farm employees and migrant workers in the midwestern States. Education and outreach on health effects and preventing pesticide exposure are aimed at workers, handlers, and their families. At the same time, we will focus on reducing ground-water exposure to five pesticides commonly used in the Midwest to treat corn and soy-bean crops.

### Waste Pesticide Removals 1988 - 1997 Region 5



The Region and States are also continuing an urban pesticide-use initiative begun in FY 98, to educate homeowners and others about proper pesticide-use so that incidents of methyl parathion misuse — like those in Lorain County, OH, Detroit, and Chicago — can be prevented. In these situations, methyl parathion was used illegally as an in-home pesticide, rather than for its approved use in cotton fields. Exposure to this chemical in an indoors setting can have significant adverse health effects. After illegal use of the pesticide

was discovered, Region 5, along with various State and local agencies, coordinated the outreach, testing and, as necessary, the repairing of individual residences, in order to eliminate human exposure to this chemical. In all, about 900 homes were sampled and 101 were cleaned up.

EPA is continuing to fund voluntary waste pesticide collections at the State level, to prevent future spills and costly cleanups of DDT and other persistent pesticides. While DDT was banned in 1971, existing stockpiles remain and present a constant threat of contamination. Since 1988, voluntary State collections in Region 5 have removed a total of over 3.5 million lb of waste pesticides. The State of Wisconsin collected its one millionth lb of waste pesticides in July 1998.

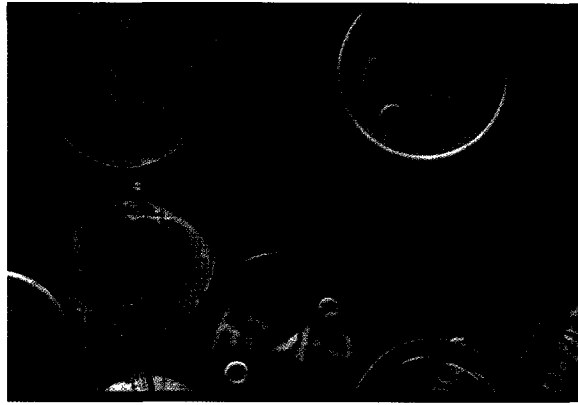
## **Children's Health**

In addition to significant outreach related to children's health issues, the Region will be working with the City of Milwaukee to implement a pilot Child Health Champion Campaign. Milwaukee will focus on asthma occurrences in two neighborhoods, one predominantly African-American and one predominantly Hispanic. The focus is directed at learning what information communities need to protect their children from environmental health threats and how that information can best be communicated.

The Region sponsored a highly successful "Children at Risk" conference in July 1998. The agenda focused on asthma, childhood cancer, and developmental effects of environmental contaminants. Based on the success of this conference, the Region is looking at continuing the dialogue with governmental, academic, medical, public health, and community organizations through another conference and a regular seminar series. We have begun a literature search and data analysis to identify zones of elevated concentrations of contaminants that are of particular risk to children and to identify zones of disease. Along with our State partners, we have begun GIS mapping of this information.

## **Reducing Risks to Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities**

Region 5 is committed to promoting and supporting equitable environmental protection regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status, or community. Region 5 has developed EJ guidelines that provide a methodology for identifying and addressing potential EJ concerns in Federal activities, such as permitting and enforcement, including providing enhanced opportunities for public outreach and involvement. The Region will also continue its internal and external EJ training programs, which provide history and updates on the subject. Using our newly developed grant-writing tutorial software, we will also help communities seeking grant assistance.



*America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and to the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restore them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste related or industrial accidents*

## Underground Storage Tanks

If not properly maintained, underground storage tanks (UST's) can harm human health and the environment by leaking or allowing spills or overflows into the soil and groundwater. The goal of the UST program is to prevent, detect, and clean up releases from UST's containing petroleum or hazardous substances

**Cleanup of contaminated sites:** The Region's focus is cleaning up sites where ground water or soil is known to be contaminated by petroleum or certain hazardous substances from leaking UST's. Currently, there are 72,489 confirmed releases in Region 5. There have been 38,334 cleanups completed, and Region 5 expects to complete a total of 43,000 cleanups by October 1999

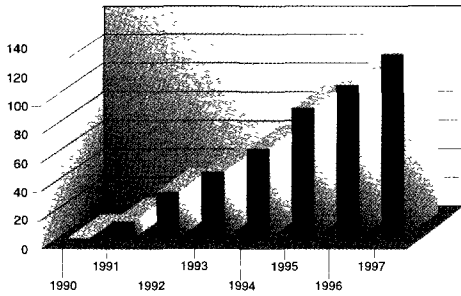
**Leak detection requirements:** UST owners are required to protect their UST's against corrosion, spills, leaks, and overfills by December 22, 1998. UST's not protected must be properly closed by that date. Region 5 will support State enforcement through direct Federal inspections and enforcement to increase State efforts. Region 5 will enforce the 1998 standards on Indian lands. This will be a continuation of past tribal outreach and compliance assistance. The current number of UST's in Region 5 is 167,700. The projected level of compliance with the deadline is about 60 percent

## Respond to Superfund Hazardous Waste Sites

The goal of the Superfund program is to protect human health and the environment through fast, efficient cleanup of priority hazardous waste sites and releases while involving affected communities in the decision-making process.

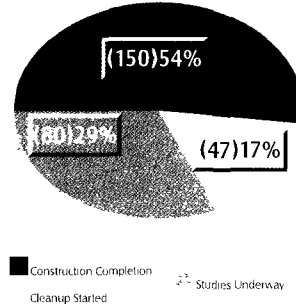
## Construction Completions

Cumulative Number of Sites in Region 5



## Region 5 NPL Sites

Cleanup Status



**Construction completions:** EPA is committed to reaching the goal established by President Clinton — 900 cleanups of National Priority List (NPL) sites by the end of 2001. By the end of FY 98, EPA expects to finish 585 cleanups, and the President has set a goal of 136 additional cleanups by FY 99 if his request for \$650 million in supplemental construction dollars is approved by Congress. Region 5 continues to lead all EPA regions in completing cleanups at Superfund sites. Region 5 expects to complete 20 cleanups for each FY's 1998, 1999, and 2000.

**Involvement of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's)** Region 5 is a national leader in the use of administrative reforms to make the Superfund program faster, fairer, and more efficient. Region 5's enforcement maximizes the involvement of PRP's in the cleanup of Superfund sites. More than 70 percent of cleanups in Region 5 are done by PRP's under consent decrees or administrative orders. Some 36 percent of all cleanups were done by PRP's in FY 97, which triples the percentage of PRP's doing cleanups since FY 96. The total value of PRP cleanups in Region 5 in FY 97 was more than \$85 million.

## Preventing and Cleaning Up Oil Spills

Region 5 will continue to conduct enforcement and compliance activities, to ensure that all populations are protected from the adverse effects of oil releases into navigable waters. Using our authority under the Clean Water Act, the Region will attempt to have the responsible parties do the cleanup of an oil spill and will pursue penalties from responsible parties to help discourage future releases. The Region will also use available inventories and reports in the Emergency Response Notification System to determine the concentration of releases and the sources of potential releases. We will use this information to target inspections and outreach in specific geographic areas and toward specific industries such as marinas.

## **Promote Reuse of Brownfields**

The current perception is that it is cheaper and easier to locate a new or expanding business in the suburbs than it is to recycle a formerly used urban property. To deal with these problems, EPA is funding States and local units of government nationwide to carry out pilot Brownfields assessment projects, to investigate potential contamination at these sites, and to work cooperatively with other agencies to encourage their cleanup and redevelopment. Region 5 administers 42 Brownfields Assessment Cooperative Agreements and 7 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Cooperative Agreements with States and local governments. It anticipates between 10 and 20 additional Brownfields Assessment Cooperative Agreements during FY 99. EPA and the city of Chicago are also participating in a Clean Air-Brownfields Partnership Pilot aimed at assessing innovative strategies to enhance air quality and economic development.

## **Preventing and Responding to Chemical Emergencies— Risk Management Plans (RMP)**

Facilities with listed chemicals above a threshold value are required to develop and submit risk management plans that detail their responses to a chemical emergency. About 14,000 facilities in Region 5 are required to submit an RMP to the implementing agency by June 20, 1999. Region 5 will continue to identify the regulated communities and provide them with information. We will also offer technical assistance to small businesses and review State programs, providing training as necessary.

## **Hazardous Waste Management**

To ensure that wastes are handled in a manner that protects human health and the environment, EPA regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes. A focus for the Region is corrective action at high-priority RCRA facilities. Corrective action has been carried out at 134 (50 percent) of the high-priority facilities. All Region 5 States are authorized for corrective action. Another priority is to demonstrate substantial progress in permitting land disposal and combustion facilities and to reduce risk at inactive land disposal facilities.

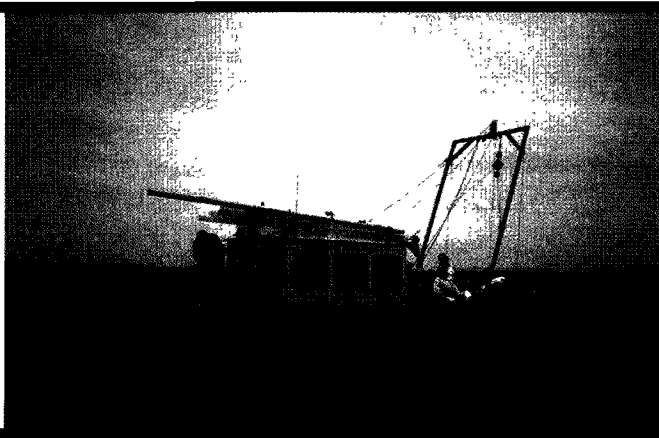
## **Removal Actions and Emergency Response**

Region 5 responds to emergency and time-critical releases of uncontrolled hazardous materials and oil spills. Initial responses include site evaluations that may lead to early removal actions, long-term



remediations at hazardous waste sites, or Brownfield redevelopment. Region 5 follows up on some 2,500 spill notifications per year, most of which are handled by State and local responders. About 100 hazardous material releases are investigated and responded to each year, and about 40 time-critical removal actions are taken each year at hazardous material sites. The Region is also increasing its focus on closer collaboration with private, local, and State entities to mitigate the release of hazardous materials.

*The United States will lead other nations in successful, multilateral efforts to reduce significant risks to human health and ecosystems from climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, and other hazards of international concern.*



## Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem

Region 5 includes a large portion of the Great Lakes Basin—the largest system of fresh, surface water on earth, which contains 20 percent of the world’s supply. The mission of the Great Lakes National Program — as set forth in the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement — is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. Our broad environmental goals include reducing toxic substances, with an emphasis on persistent, bioaccumulative substances, and protecting and restoring vital habitats and biological integrity. To achieve these objectives, Federal, State, tribal, and nongovernmental agencies must work together.

## Reduction of Toxics

EPA will lead collaborative efforts for air and water monitoring in all five Great Lakes. We will look for toxicant-nutrient loadings and concentrations, as well as for biological health. Air and water monitoring will support and target cleanup efforts and measure environmental progress under Remedial Action Plans (RAP's) and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMP's). These are multiagency and stakeholder watershed planning programs designed to restore impaired beneficial uses. Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) will also lead development and implementation of ecosystem monitoring of Great Lakes core indicators, developed through the biennial "State of the Lakes Ecosystem" conferences. It will also expand public access to additional Great Lakes environmental information.

The Binational Toxics Strategy (BNS) establishes reduction challenges for an initial list of persistent toxic substances (including PCB's and mercury), which have been associated with widespread, long-term adverse effects on wildlife in the Great Lakes, and, through their bioaccumulation, are of concern for human health. Already we have gathered information, assessed and identified control options, and acquired commitments from important stakeholders to reduce mercury. For instance, The Chlorine Institute has committed the chlor-alkali industry to a 50 percent reduction in the use of mercury by 2005, and the American Hospital Association has agreed to virtually eliminate mercury from the hospital wastestream by 2005.

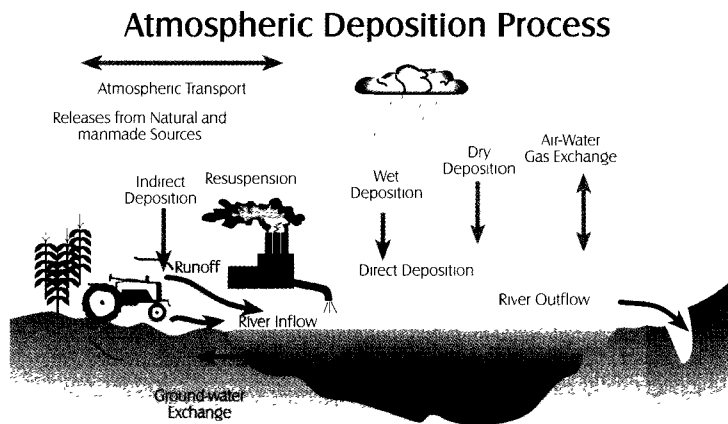
Utilities are also a significant source of mercury emissions, in addition to ozone precursors and greenhouse gases. We have started discussing ways that utilities might be able to contribute to mercury reduction, including through co-controlling mercury with other pollutants, promoting energy efficiency, marketing alternative-energy green power, and reducing the use of mercury-containing devices. Additional focus will be brought to these issues. The BNS will spur similar actions for other targeted persistent toxicants. Regional projects that have led to reductions in releases of persistent toxicants include the PCB Phasedown and PCB Used-Oil and Pesticide Clean Sweep programs, the Great Printers Project, and EPA's Green Programs for energy efficiency (some described under Goal 4 and later in Goal 6).

**Contaminated Sediments** are a significant source of toxic pollutants in Great Lakes harbors and in the Region's waterways. They impair beneficial uses at each of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC's) and are important considerations for the implementation of RAP's and LaMP's. GLNPO supports sediment sampling and characterization throughout the Great Lakes, focusing especially on the AOC's, by using the R/V *Mudpuppy* for sampling and by providing technical assistance and funding for sediment cleanup demonstrations. To date, GLNPO has provided assistance for assessment and characterization and sediment cleanup at 25 sites, including 22 AOC's, in the Great Lakes. EPA is cleaning up sediments through partnerships with States and others, as well as through the use of Federal enforcement authorities. We have participated and are participating in successful remediation projects in Ohio (the unnamed tributary to the Ottawa River), Michigan (Ford

Outfalls Site on the River Raisin, Manistique River and Harbor, Bryant Mill Pond on the Kalamazoo River, and Willow Run Creek), Illinois (Waukegan Harbor); Indiana (LTV Steel on the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal), and Wisconsin (Deposit N on the Fox River and Hayton Mill Pond on the Manitowoc River). EPA is also cofounder and partner on the Great Lakes Dredging Team, whose member organizations are focusing their efforts on improving the process for managing dredged materials from our navigable waterways

To reduce soil erosion and continuing sources of sediment pollution from nonpoint agricultural and urban stormwater runoff, EPA works closely with State agriculture departments and other Federal agencies, as well as with Farm Bill implementation and programs of other agencies.

We also know that air deposition plays a significant role in the accumulation of toxics in the Great Lakes and other inland waters. Among other things, the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study is helping to determine to what extent toxic air emissions are harming lake waters and their ecosystems. Much of our work concerns the atmospheric deposition of mercury to lakes and land—a national priority and a global concern. To support this scientific assessment, EPA is helping States to develop a Great Lakes Regional Air Toxics Emissions Inventory and to monitor air toxics trends. Using this data, we hope to develop models to more accurately describe the complex interactions and movement of toxic pollutants between the air and water. We will investigate cost-effective control technologies for mercury and other pollutants. Finally, we will continue assessing and identifying pollution sources outside the Great Lakes Basin.



## Protect and Restore Critical Habitats

GLNPO has been demonstrating habitat protection and restoration in the Great Lakes Basin since 1992, providing over \$10 million for more than 100 projects, affecting 20 percent of the Great Lakes Basin. We now know more about what ecological communities and species exist here and how the Great Lakes support them. New protection and restoration tools are being invented, assessed, and shared. Communities are participating actively in protection and restoration activities, realizing direct and indirect benefits for their economies. GLNPO's habitat protection and restoration program will continue, with an emphasis on projects in biodiversity investment areas and in development of habitat monitoring tools and approaches

## Lakes

Our Geographic Priorities structure provides multimedia support to restore and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Priorities for the four Great Lakes in Region 5 are discussed below. (While Lake Ontario is also a high priority for EPA, that work is principally done by Region 2 and GLNPO.)

### Lake Superior

Lake Superior is one of the last wild areas of the Great Lakes, still containing large tracts of forested land, intact estuaries, and rare beach dune communities. It also has high-grade wetlands with abundant plant and animal species, many of which are threatened or endangered and occur only in the Lake Superior region. However, several stressors currently threaten the overall health of the ecosystem, including the presence of persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals, invasion of exotic species, increased development, unsound land-use practices, and agricultural and urban runoff laced with pollutants and nutrients. The results have been an increased amount of degraded and destroyed habitat within the system, as well as threatened key natural species.

U.S. and Canadian governments are working under the Lake Superior Binational Program to cope with these problems through the joint development of the LaMP for Lake Superior. Identification of remedial measures will be completed in 1998, and the nonchemical stressors portion will be completed in 1999. Selection of remedial measures will then be made. It will include analysis of current regulatory programs and a reduction strategy using tools and incentives. Ongoing efforts to prevent, reduce, and restore the impaired uses include a continuing zero-discharge demonstration program for critical pollutants (including pollution prevention projects); special protection designations; the development of an integrated monitoring plan, identification, protection, and restoration of important habitat; and outreach and education to instill a resource preservation ethic within the basin.

## **Lake Erie**

Lake Erie is the smallest, shallowest, and most biologically productive Great Lake, supporting major industrial, recreational, and fishing uses. Lake Erie's water quality has improved as a result of advances in wastewater and sewage treatment. Urbanization, agricultural use, and exotic species continue to adversely affect habitat and decrease the fish population in the lake. As part of the LaMP process, the Region has designated PCB's and mercury as critical pollutants for priority action, identified six additional problem pollutants (DDT, chlordane, PAH's, mirex, dioxin, and lead), and will publish eight use-impairment assessments by November 1998. In the next phase, pollutant sources and loads analysis will begin on the eight high-priority pollutants, ecosystem objectives will be selected, and beneficial-use impairment assessments will be completed. A schedule of load reductions and identification of other remedial action alternatives will also begin by September 1999.

## **Lake Michigan**

Lake Michigan (the second largest) is the only Great Lake entirely within the United States, extending from the colder, forested north woods to the more temperate southern dune and swale system. The basin contains the Nation's third largest population center, the world's largest concentration of pulp and paper mills, and 40 percent of the Nation's steel-making capacity, as well as fruit and grain production. The basin contains globally rare habitat and two national lakeshores, including the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore which ranks third nationally in diverse flora. While water quality at Lake Michigan has improved, contamination still exists. Nonpoint-source runoff, air deposition, and large contaminated sediment sites are main sources of the lake's contamination. Fish advisories and beach closings are still necessary. Habitat destruction, developmental pressures, and exotic species present significant challenges.

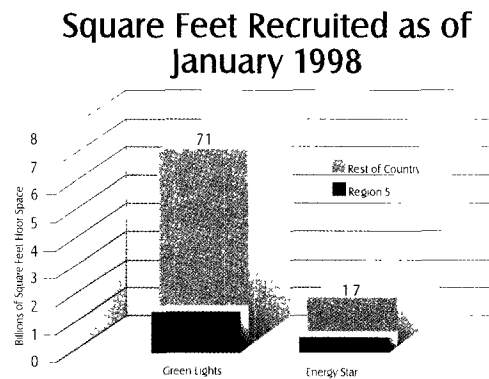
The draft LaMP is being reviewed to include information on ecosystem stressors that impair beneficial uses and incorporate early sampling results provided by the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study, as well as results of a recent stakeholder comparative risk exercise. Maps of the SE Chicago and Lake Calumet wetlands have been developed and a project to enhance Lake Michigan mapping to include all wetland and habitat information in a digital format is under way. Such maps help provide the basis for protection, restoration, and land-use planning efforts. As a result of recent Superfund work, the Manistique River and Harbor Site (Manistique, MI) has been cleaned of sediment contaminated with PCB's. Fish tissue samples are showing lower levels of contamination in the Cedar Creek (Milwaukee, WI) and Waukegan Harbor, IL, areas following cleanups that were started in the early 1990's.

## **Lake Huron**

Lake Huron (the third largest) is hydrologically inseparable from Lake Michigan, joined by the wide Straits of Mackinac. The Huron lakeshore extends 3,827 miles and is characterized by shallow, sandy

beaches and the rocky shores of Georgian Bay. Lake Huron's drainage area, which covers parts of Michigan and Ontario, is relatively large compared to the other Great Lakes. Environmental issues that still remain include habitat destruction, toxic contaminants, threat of sea lampreys, and a decreasing fish population. Michigan State agencies met with EPA and other interested partners in 1998 to begin identifying issues and efforts toward ensuring a sustainable Lake Huron watershed. EPA will continue working with these organizations to explore options for dealing with Lake Huron problems.

## Global Climate Change



In 1993, President Clinton launched the Climate Change Action Plan, which consists of various cost-effective initiatives and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Region 5, there has been great success in the Energy Star buildings and Green Lights partnership, with more than 450 corporate, municipal, and other partners committing to upgrade a total of 1 billion square feet with energy-efficient technologies. These partners have prevented the release of 1.6 billion lb of carbon dioxide, 6 million lb of nitrogen

oxides, and 18 million lb of sulphur dioxide, which all contribute to global climate change, smog, and acid rain. Region 5, with State and local energy and environmental officials, will continue to promote these voluntary efforts.

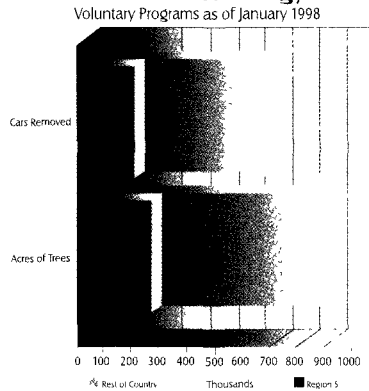
Waste prevention and recycling also affect global warming. For example, if half of 100 tons of paper is recycled, instead of simply thrown away, greenhouse emissions can be reduced by 63 percent. Waste Wi\$e — a voluntary partnership program aimed at reducing solid waste — helps support this effort by promoting waste prevention and recycling projects. Region 5 will continue to actively promote WasteWi\$e and other waste reduction programs.

## Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) drift high up into the stratosphere, where the sun's rays break them apart, starting a chain reaction in which chlorine destroys ozone. As the level of protective ozone

diminishes, larger amounts of ultraviolet (UV) radiation reach the earth's surface. For people, overexposure to UV rays can lead to a variety of ailments, including skin cancer and damage to the immune system and eyes. EPA encourages businesses and industries that use ozone-producing chemicals to reduce the amount of CFC's released into the environment through recovery and recycling. To support this objective, Region 5 will continue to fulfill requests for compliance assistance and outreach. It will also investigate and handle complaints of noncompliance.

### Effectiveness of Energy Star



## International Activities

In addition to sharing environmental information with all visitors, Region 5 participates in a number of international initiatives. The Baltic Sea-Great Lakes Partnership was formed to solve common problems afflicting these great water bodies. Areas of emphasis include reducing and eliminating persistent toxics, preventing future invasions of exotic species, and improving watershed management programs. Fellows from the Baltics will spend up to 6 months visiting academic, scientific, and government institutions in the Great Lakes region to discuss approaches on monitoring, modeling, and information management.

We have ongoing efforts to train Baltic officials on technologies to improve air and water monitoring, sampling, and analysis, and redesign water-quality monitoring networks in Lithuania. In Poland, Region 5 is demonstrating how municipalities can use comparative-risk analysis and meaningful public participation to rank environmental problems and deal with them at a local level. Region 5's Pesticide Management Project is training Ukraine governmental agencies on state-of-the-art pest and pesticide management techniques and on methods of registering pesticides and regulating their production, handling, labeling, and proper usage. By reducing the unmanaged and excessive use of pesticides in the Ukraine, Region 5 is helping to make the global food supply safer.

Region 5 is also leading a multiregion project to train Ukrainian Oblast and Ministry officials on the principles of environmental impact assessment (EIA). Ukrainian officials will receive training on managing and protecting natural resources, establishing a public participation process, and analyzing alternatives and impact mitigation. Ukraine's future use of EIA processes will greatly reduce the global environmental risks posed by Ukraine's large-scale energy, mining, and industrial projects.



*Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.*

Public education and outreach is integrated into every Region 5 program through public involvement, community conferences and workshops, news releases, fact sheets, newsletters, educational software programs, and our Internet Web site, which provides access to a variety of environmental information and data. The following are examples of Region 5 efforts to improve environmental outreach and education.

## **Environmental Education**

Under the National Environmental Education Act, Region 5 has awarded—over the past 7 years—more than 160 grants to nonprofit organizations, State, local, and tribal governments, and academic institutions to carry out innovative environmental education programs for kindergarten through 12th grade. The Region will continue to award these competitive environmental education grants. We will also continue our partnership with The Nature Conservancy, to help students learn about their local environment through the “Mighty Acorns” program. We will provide training for teachers on various curricula, covering topics such as safe pest control and lead paint.

## **Public Involvement in Enforcement**

Region 5 is working to increase opportunities for community involvement in enforcement, including cases where environmental-justice issues are a concern. The goal is to incorporate community views



as much as possible, while still respecting the necessary confidentiality of certain proceedings. For example: The Region has used community ideas during supplemental environmental project negotiations, where a violator's penalty may be partially reduced through agreed-upon local environmental project otherwise not required.

## Drinking-Water Consumer Confidence Reports

The Region is committed to informing the public about the safety of its drinking water. The Region will work with States to ensure that consumer confidence reports with specific drinking-water quality information are prepared by all community water systems beginning in 1999, as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

## EMPACT

Region 5 is participating in a new national program called Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT). The goal of EMPACT is to make timely, accurate, and understandable environmental information available to millions of communities and people across the country so that they can make informed day-to-day decisions. Region 5 is developing two projects under this national program. The first, in northeast Ohio, will implement a real-time air quality monitoring reporting system and develop a tool which analyzes air quality monitoring, source emissions, and ecological data to strengthen environmental decision-making at the neighborhood, community, city, county, and regional levels. The second, in East St. Louis, IL, will provide easy-to-understand information through the World Wide Web, first dealing with air quality, such as daily ozone levels, and then expanding to other environmental topics. Region 5 will work with community organizations to provide training on how to access and use this information.

## Ritual Mercury Use

A 1997 study by the Chicago Department of Public Health shows that mercury is being used in religious rituals and folk medicines in the city's Hispanic community. Similar findings came from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Detroit area. Women are the primary users of mercury, and most users live in households with young children. Region 5 will work with organizations that serve Chicago's Hispanic community, to help them better understand the

risks involved in mercury use. We will also develop approaches to the problem that protect public health, reduce contamination of the local environment, and respect the religious and cultural traditions that give rise to the practice. Our project will include public education, to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate health-risk information to Chicago's Hispanic community. This project could be also used in other Region 5 communities.

## Asthma Outreach

Recent medical data analysis show that asthma cases are increasing, especially among children living in urban areas. Because ground-level ozone is one of several asthma triggers, Region 5 has developed and distributed brochures – in English, Spanish, and Arabic, – alerting people of the link between ozone levels and asthma and providing helpful steps to reduce ozone exposure. The Region continues to develop partnerships with local agencies and organizations to educate the public about air quality and asthma. Region 5, along with the Marion County Health Department in Indianapolis, held a workshop on asthma and on indoor air quality in schools. The Region has also provided outreach to children through the Chicago Park District's "Stewardship Days" program.

## Customer Service

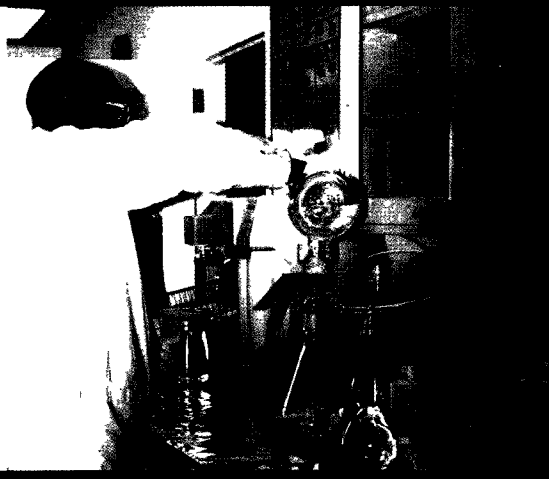
Region 5 created a Customer Service Task Force to increase communication with our external stakeholders. Meetings (most recently in Minneapolis) have been held in an effort to bring representatives of business, local government, and environmental groups together with the Region's Senior Leadership Team, to identify areas where the Region can improve. In another customer service initiative, the Region is focusing on ways to improve responses to telephone inquiries from the public.

Another aspect of customer service identified in the Strategic Plan supports the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS). NEPPS is the framework, developed by EPA and the States, which establishes a new environmental partnership, to encourage continuous improvement and to foster excellence in State and Federal environmental programs. Under NEPPS, EPA and the States work together, each according to its strength. NEPPS directs public resources toward improving measurable environmental results, to allow States greater flexibility to achieve those results, while maintaining responsibility and accountability for our work.

Region 5 fully supports the performance partnership system. Five State environmental agencies (IL, IN, MN, OH, and WI) have entered into partnership agreements with Region 5. Joint priority setting and public involvement are emphasized, and each partnership agreement is responsive to unique State conditions and desired approaches. For example: Illinois and Indiana have used the

process to shift resources into cross-media efforts, such as pollution prevention and regulatory innovation, and environmental trend analysis. Region 5 will continue to support this process and, in particular, will seek ways to integrate State and Federal fiscal-year issues, enhanced indicator use, and flexible approaches to environmental management.

*EPA will develop and apply the best available science for addressing current and future environmental hazards, as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection.*



## Quality Management Plans

Sound scientific investigation and the data it produces require an effective quality assurance system. A Quality Management Plan (QMP) is an important tool that formally describes and documents the quality system used to produce useful data for decision-making. In addition to ensuring that its own QMP's are in place and followed, Region 5 helps to develop quality systems, documented in QMP's, to enhance sound scientific investigation at the State level.

## Protect and Restore Critical Ecosystems

Region 5 will work with its partners in targeting the most critical ecosystems and ecological issues. These efforts will include mapping ecosystems identified by partners as valuable natural areas in need of protection or restoration. They will also include developing EPA's internal criteria for choosing

areas where the Region can most effectively devote its resources. The Region will build external capacity by continuing a train-the-trainer course on ecological risk assessments for interested States. So far, "Ecological Risk and Decision-Making" has been taught to over 150 persons, including staff from Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The Region will be a focal point for ecological research and expertise and will work, for example, on the development of environmental indicators to measure environmental improvements. Region 5 will consider supplemental environmental projects (SEP's), where it is appropriate in enforcement actions, as a way to promote ecosystem projects.

## Sustainable Environments

**Urban** — Region 5 is promoting green development alternatives, such as reuse of older subdivisions or retail spaces, cluster siting of buildings, reuse of Brownfields, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly projects, mixed-use zoning, transit-oriented development, preservation of natural features, and many other choices. The Region supports these options by promoting better transportation patterns to deal with the long-term growth of vehicle miles traveled, using natural stormwater retention methods, and promoting better community planning for watersheds — to prevent degradation due to nonpoint-source runoff related to urban development. Our goal is to help people recognize and incorporate secondary land-use impacts in the development and analysis of project alternatives. To further this goal, the Region is developing a software program that will help communities evaluate the environmental consequences of land-use choices.

**Agricultural** — Region 5 recognizes the critical importance of agricultural lands to the Region. Ensuring sufficient farmland is part of overall land-use planning efforts being promoted throughout the Region. However, agricultural practices also affect sustainability of the existing farmland, as well as of surrounding ecosystems and watersheds. Region 5 will increase efforts to work with a wide range of partners at the Federal, State, and local levels to cope with problems and issues related to agriculture. Particularly important are issues related to concentrated animal feeding operations and initiatives under the Clean Water Action Plan.

## Cumulative Risk

The concept of looking at multiple sources of pollutants and multiple pathways of exposure is called cumulative risk assessment. Region 5 is contributing to the advancement of this science by

participating in the Chicago Cumulative Risk Initiative (CCRI), a unique partnership between EPA Region 5, Headquarters, Argonne National Laboratories, and community groups within Cook County, IL, and Lake County, IN. The goal of CCRI is to design and test a cumulative risk methodology, assessing the overall risk to certain groups of children who are exposed to a multitude of regulated pollutants that make up a typical "urban soup." Phase I was the development of a loading profile, which summarized all available emissions and environmental data for the two counties. A corresponding data base was developed, which allowed the user to query emissions information on the basis of such things as Zip code, pollutant, and source category. This data base will be made available to the public through the Region 5 library.

Phase II is under way and involves developing the cumulative risk methodology, which uses information gathered in the loading profile. The model will seek to quantify how exposure to an entire range of pollutants, typically found in an urban industrial setting, affects children's health. The results of this effort, in addition to advancing the science of cumulative risk, will be used in a variety of ways by different organizations to improve our ability to come to grips with urban environmental pollution.

## Endocrine Disrupters

Through hormones, the endocrine system within our bodies regulates many important functions, including growth, development, reproduction, and metabolism. Although there is disagreement on the extent of the problem, increasing evidence suggests that subtle adverse human health effects may result from exposure to chemicals that act like hormones and interfere with the normal function of the endocrine system. These chemicals are called endocrine disrupters. Humans may be exposed to endocrine disrupters through many different pathways, including consuming contaminated food or water, or breathing air containing endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Region 5 will stay updated on the current science and policy decisions on endocrine disrupters, respond to questions from the public, interact with EPA Headquarters to provide a regional perspective on national policy, and work with States on controls where necessary. Region 5 will make sure that the right tools are made available to States to deal with this issue.

## Regulatory Innovation

In 1995, President Clinton launched a national effort of regulatory innovation, with the goal of *finding cheaper, cleaner, and smarter ways of protecting the environment*. Region 5 is actively participating in the Common Sense Initiative, a program that works with selected industrial sectors to improve performance and efficiency. The Region is also involved with Project XL, a program

designed to test innovative approaches that may require flexibility from current Federal rules and regulations, and the EPA-State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation, a State-led effort to encourage businesses in developing new approaches to environmental protection. Our primary objectives are to pilot new approaches and to guide successful initiatives into the day-to-day activities of our programs.

## Community-Based Environmental Protection

Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) brings together public and private stakeholders within a geographic area to identify environmental concerns, set priorities, and forge comprehensive solutions. Each Region 5 Division and Office provides support or directs efforts in carrying out the CBEP approach. For example: Community involvement, collaborative partnering, and extensive outreach and training are all elements of the CBEP approach that are incorporated into daily business throughout the Region. Our Geographic Priority Areas are examples of the holistic use of the CBEP approach. The problems within these geographic areas coincide with many of our specific environmental goals described in more detail elsewhere. The following are highlights from these efforts.

### Greater Chicago

The Greater Chicago Initiative covers the Chicago metropolitan area, but focuses on the Southeast and West Sides of Chicago, which suffer from a range of problems -- from aging industry to decaying infrastructure to job flight. The Region works with a variety of stakeholders in workgroups that focus on natural-resource management, pollution prevention, air toxics and odors, large-scale contaminated soils, illegal dumping, and enforcement issues. In the future, we hope to participate in several activities that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Develop a natural-resource management plan for the Lake Calumet area.
- ◆ Encourage the development of a Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership.
- ◆ Complete soil and ground-water contaminant characterization for six contiguous sites in the Calumet area.
- ◆ Develop a strategy to reduce exposure to air toxics in Cook County.

### Gateway (Greater East St. Louis, IL)

Gateway includes 18 communities in the East St. Louis, IL, metro area, many with environmental-justice populations. Over 70 industrial facilities lie in this 60-square-mile area on the eastern floodplain of

the Mississippi River. Nearly 16,000 acres of the floodplain are wetlands. The area does not meet health-related air quality standards for ozone, and ambient air concentrations for lead and cadmium are also high. Community concerns in this area include illegal dumping, open burning, abandoned and deteriorating houses, flooding urban sprawl, and critical ecosystem restoration.

The Region's activities in this geographic area have resulted in the St. Clair County sheriff's department assigning a trained officer to investigate environmental crimes; furthering efforts by the Neighbors United for Progress to educate the Centerville, IL, community about environmental problems; and developing a partnership with the American Lung Association to educate community leaders on ways to reduce health risks to children suffering from asthma in East St. Louis, Cahokia, Wood River, and Acton. Over the next couple of years, the Region will:

- ◆ Develop a preliminary assessment of uncontrolled lead releases for targeted areas in Gateway.
- ◆ Increase partnering with Federal, State, and local stakeholders.
- ◆ Establish a forum for community groups from throughout gateway, to network and work toward solving addressing regional environmental problems, such as urban sprawl, Brownfields, etc.
- ◆ Help carry out collaborative projects to prevent illegal dumping.

## Northwest Indiana (NWI)

The Northwest Indiana area spans the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The past century has seen intense industrialization, with steel and petroleum refining industries dominating the area. The result: severe degradation and major alterations to the natural ecosystem of dune and swale and prairie. Sediments in waterways are contaminated, hundreds of thousands of gallons of petroleum products float on the water table, numerous Superfund and hazardous waste sites require cleanup, and air quality does not meet the national standards. Remaining fragments of natural areas need protection. Main objectives of this initiative are to:

- ◆ Reduce risk from toxics by focusing on lead exposure to children and by using information from the Chicago Cumulative Risk Initiative to target sources of toxics for reduction or elimination.
- ◆ Promote restoration of habitat and revitalization of the Grand Calumet River Corridor.
- ◆ Institute a program to reduce illegal dumping of solid waste
- ◆ Support local sustainable development initiatives, such as the Quality of Life Council.

## Southeast Michigan (SEMI)

The Southeast Michigan Initiative comprises 8 counties with a population of over 5 million, including the city of Detroit and its suburbs. Several rivers in the area have impaired uses, combined sewer overflows, and contaminated sediments. There are releases of toxic pollutants and land-use problems created by urban sprawl. In addition, many areas come under environmental-justice concerns due to high minority and low-income populations. The citizens of the area stand to benefit from increased attention to strategic environmental planning, current regulatory programs, and the new and innovative approaches to environmental protection, including Brownfields redevelopment. The Region will concentrate on

- ◆ Continuing to build relationships with our local stakeholders through the SEMI Environmental Forum and other public-information and outreach efforts.
- ◆ Targeting efforts for enforcement and compliance assistance, as well as voluntary efforts through "Good Neighbor" projects and others.
- ◆ Continuing to develop and refine an environmental indicators database, to use as a "State of Environment" report as well as a decision-making tool.
- ◆ Planning, in cooperation with the local host and national planning committees, for the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America, hosted by the President's Council on Sustainable Development, to be held in Detroit in May 1999.

The Region has selected the low-income, environmental-justice Del Ray community in which to focus our actions over the next couple of years. This will include using our resources on traditional and innovative tools to solve community-specified priorities such as junkyards, RCRA violators, and odor problems. For other communities in the SEMI area, the Region will act as liaison, identifying for regional programs the major environmental problems important to the community.

## Northeast Ohio

Over 4 million people live in the 15-county northeast Ohio area, part of the Midwest "rust belt." Dramatic demographic and economic changes, coupled with sprawling developments without population growth, have caused unprecedented stresses on the regional ecosystems and infrastructure. The top five environmental concerns in this geographic area are: out-migration from the urban core, quality of the urban environment, outdoor air quality, surface-water quality, and use of resources and energy.

The Region's current activities have resulted in: getting two communities to launch illegal dumping prevention programs; cleanup of three Cleveland sites for redevelopment, field and



laboratory support to the city of Middlefield to begin dredging and restoration work of Mineral Lake; and, through the Sustainable Cleveland Partnership, three neighborhood training sessions on risk assessment, use of data bases, and roles of Federal, State, and local agencies. During the next couple of years, our focus will include

- ◆ Helping local stakeholders to deal with urban sprawl and Brownfields issues.
- ◆ Sponsoring a train-the-trainer workshop on sustainability indicators.
- ◆ Initiating a collaborative effort to cope with contaminated sediments in the Mahoning River.
- ◆ Helping solve environmental problems in four environmental-justice neighborhoods
- ◆ Establishing a compliance-assurance coordination mechanism for northeast Ohio.

*EPA will ensure full compliance with laws intended to protect public health and the environment*



## Enforcement Presence

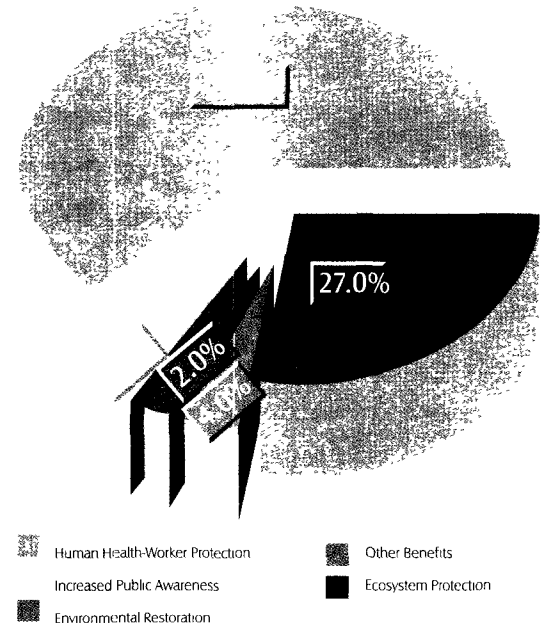
EPA's mandate to protect public health and safety depends upon effective enforcement. Strong, deterrence-based enforcement creates a climate that encourages innovation, prevention, and compliance by the regulated community. The Region's enforcement activities continue to be

instrumental in achieving this accountability. Between October 1, 1996, and September 30, 1997, Region 5 enforcement actions represented 25 percent of all EPA administrative penalty cases, 25 percent of all new referrals to U.S. Department of Justice, and 19 percent of all civil judicial settlements. The value of penalties increased by more than 200 percent during this period, for a total of \$18,777,653.

The Region continues to measure enforcement success not only by the number of actions taken or dollar amounts collected in penalties, but—more important—by the environmental benefits gained. The Region has continued these gains by encouraging violators to do voluntary supplemental environmental projects (SEP's) to offset

penalties. Between October 1, 1996, and September 30, 1997, 39 of the Region's settlements included SEP's, adding about \$7.5 million in various environmental improvements. These projects—which may involve pollution prevention, pollution reduction, environmental audits, public awareness efforts, or environmental restoration—help ensure that communities which have suffered from the violations also reap the benefits.

## Environmental Impacts of Region 5 SEP'S



## Priority Industry Sectors

For the last several years, the Region has supported the National Industry Sector Priorities. Targeting our enforcement and compliance assistance efforts in these priority sectors will result in a better compliance rate with environmental laws and regulations. The Region's focus on specific industry sectors has also been successful in encouraging facilities to admit violations through self-disclosure and voluntarily correct them in a timely manner.

Region 5 will continue to support the National Sector Priorities and Strategies to focus enforcement and compliance efforts on selected industry sectors. Specific industry sectors will be

targeted, based on factors such as high noncompliance rates, high volume of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) releases, carcinogenic-emission release amounts, significant presence and impact in the Region, and feedback provided through EPA Headquarters, regional, and State in-house expertise

The Region has developed sector strategies for:

- ◆ Primary nonferrous metals
- ◆ Petroleum refining
- ◆ Industrial organic chemicals
- ◆ Chemical preparation
- ◆ Iron and basic-steel products
- ◆ Coal-fired utilities, single-media focus
- ◆ Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's), single-media focus

The Region will carry out these single-media and multimedia sector strategies using inspections, assistance, incentives, and enforcement tools to increase sector compliance. The sector approach will be critical in achieving reductions in pollution, identifying new pollution sources, increasing the number of facilities opting for self-disclosure, increasing coordination and communication with our States and other external stakeholders, and deterring future violations

## **Deter noncompliance, particularly in CBEP-EJ areas**

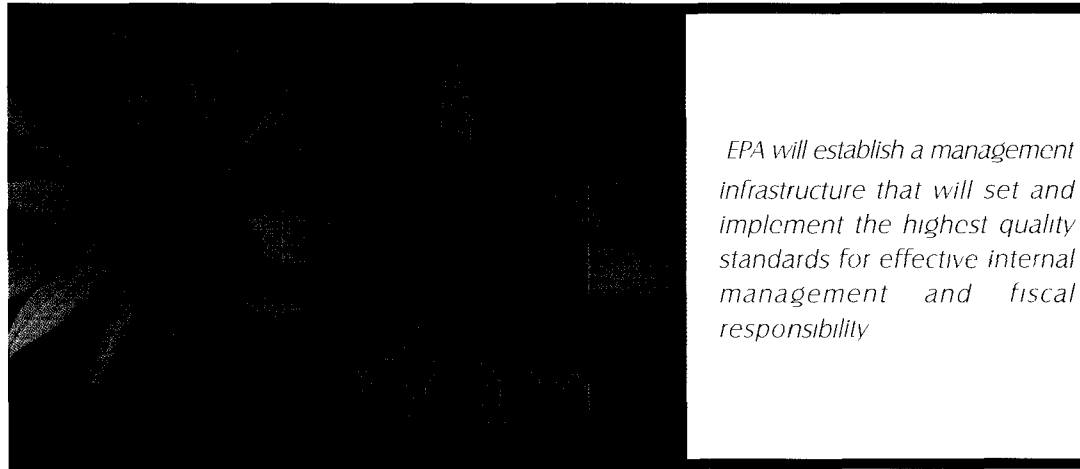
Region 5 has devoted considerable efforts over the past several years to deal with environmental problems and concerns in communities that are disproportionately exposed to environmental pollution. The Region has focused many of its enforcement and compliance-assurance activities in these key geographic areas: Northwest Indiana, Northeast Ohio, Southeast Michigan, Gateway-East St. Louis, and Greater Chicago. Between 1996 and 1998, Region 5 has done 34 multimedia inspections in our geographic initiative areas. This represents about 70 percent of all the multimedia inspections done during this period. During the same period, the Region completed 43 multimedia inspections in the priority-industry sectors. And many of these inspections are a subset of those conducted in the geographic initiative areas.

The Region will continue to develop techniques to define, identify, target, and deal with high-risk, environmental-justice, and other priority areas of noncompliance by encouraging regular community involvement and carrying out the regional Environmental Justice guidelines. We will also continue to apply a multimedia approach in high-risk areas.

## Compliance Assistance and Incentive Programs/Self-Disclosures

Making use of all the enforcement tools and incentives to encourage environmental auditing for compliance and self-disclosure has been an important aspect of the Region's enforcement program. The Region has incorporated compliance-assistance and incentive programs in many compliance-assurance initiatives. As a result, there has been a considerable increase in the number of self-disclosures reported to the Region, which resulted in improved compliance with environmental laws.

The Region will continue to encourage the use of self-auditing and environmental management systems to achieve and maintain compliance through information and research dissemination, compliance monitoring activities, partnerships with technology experts, pollution prevention, and innovative regulatory approaches, or sector and geographic initiatives. Where State audit and privilege laws conflict with EPA guidelines, Region 5 will work with States to handle problems.



## Workforce Management

Region 5 recognizes that employees represent its most important resource. It is management's goal that each employee in Region 5 have a full and equal opportunity to reach his or her highest career potential at EPA. To help achieve this goal, the Region has established a Workforce Development

Team and a Board of Directors that will strive to deliver a mix of formal training, mentoring of employees, developmental assignments, self-instruction, and other employee development activities to ensure the successful achievement of environmental goals. The Region has also, in consultation with the union and Special-Emphasis Program Managers, developed a Workforce Management Plan. It will provide the Region a management tool to recruit, develop, and maintain a highly motivated, technically competent, and diverse workforce. The Region and the union have also agreed to form a Partnership Council charged, in part, with providing and maintaining a high-quality, flexible workforce – with skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to meet present and future needs.

Region 5's number one internal management priority for the immediate future will be to develop and institute a Diversity Action Plan, which will provide a roadmap for ensuring a quality, diversified workforce. Region 5 management and the union will work through our newly established Partnership Council to meet that priority, enhance human-resources management, and handle other employee issues.

## **Year 2000 Compliance**

EPA, along with all other Federal agencies, must ensure that its computer systems are in Year 2000 compliance. Region 5 efforts will include taking an inventory of hardware and software systems, State data exchanges, and regional laboratory facilities. Specifically, the Region's first priority will be to complete an inventory of its information resources management infrastructure and associated systems to ensure software and hardware systems are in compliance. We will rework, reprogram, and replace noncompliant systems. Region 5 will work with the States and international partners to help ensure that all computer systems can communicate with Federal systems in the Year 2000.

## **Partnership 2000 (P2000)**

P2000 is EPA's new automated system for processing assistance awards. Potential recipients will be able to access the system through the World Wide Web and view guidance documents and requests for grant proposals for EPA programs and projects. Applications can then be electronically submitted for complete electronic processing.

Region 5 has purchased and will install the required hardware and software to implement P2000. The system will be phased in over the next year. Phase one will concentrate on the module to produce the award documents. Phase two is full electronic processing with States. It is our intent to implement this phase by October 1999, with the ability of a State to use the system a major factor. The third phase will include all other potential grantees by the end of 1999.

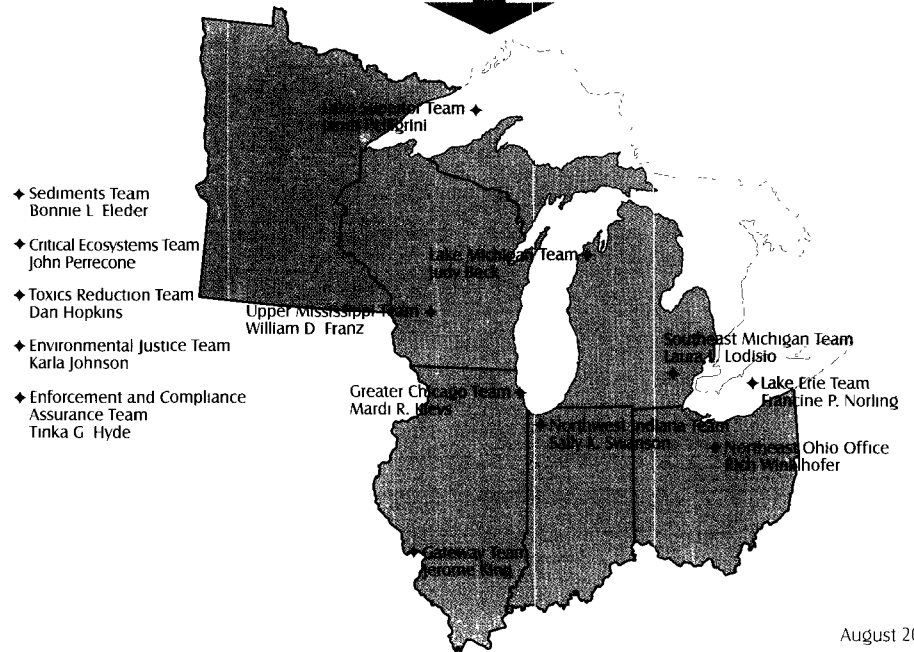
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Office of Inspector General  
Anthony C. Carollo  
Ailverdes Cornelious

## Regional Teams

Criminal Investigation Division  
Chicago Area Office  
Louis M. Halkias



August 20, 1998

## Regional Program Managers

*(all phones in area code 312 unless otherwise noted)*

Regional Administrator, David A Ullrich (Acting)	886-3000
Deputy Regional Administrator, Jo Lynn Traub (Acting)	886-3000
Regional Counsel, Gail Ginsberg	886-6675
Resources Management Division, Norman Niedergang	353-2024
Air and Radiation Division, Stephen Rothblatt (Acting)	353-2212
Superfund Division, William Muno	353-9773
Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division, Robert Springer	886-7435
Water Division, Tim Henry (Acting)	353-2147
Office of Public Affairs, Elissa Speizman	353-2072
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis, Jerri-Anne Garl	886-9857
Great Lakes National Program Office, Gary Gulezian	886-4040
Office of International Affairs, Vacys Saulys (Acting)	353-7648
Office of Inspector General, Audits, Anthony Carrollo	353-2503
Office of Inspector General, Investigations, Alverdes Cornelious	886-9336
Criminal Investigation Division, Louis Halkias	886-9872

## Team and Approach Managers

Lake Michigan, Judy Beck	353-3849
Lake Superior, Janet Pelligrini (Acting)	886-4298
Lake Erie, Francine Norling	886-0271
Northeast Ohio, Rich Winkhofer	216-522-7260
Gateway-East St. Louis, Jerome King	886-0981
Northwest Indiana, Sally Swanson	353-8512
Southeast Michigan, Laura Lodisio	886-7090
Upper Mississippi, William Franz	886-7500
Greater Chicago, Mardi Klevs	353-5490
Critical Ecosystems, John Perrecone	353-1149
Sediments, Bonnie Eleder	886-4885
Environmental Justice, Karla Johnson	886-5993
Toxics Reduction, Dan Hopkins	886-5994
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Tinka Hyde	886-9296
Children's Health, Phyllis Reed	886-6018
Community-Based Environmental Protection, Donald Kathan	886-0448
Sustainable Urban Development, John Haugland	886-9853
Brownfields Redevelopment, Jim Van der Kloot	353-3161
Regulatory Innovation, Marilou Martin	353-9660
Risk and Science, Howard Zar	886-1491
Carole Braverman	886-2910
Measuring and Managing for Environmental Results, Barry DeGraff	886-0147

## Look for us on-line:

Region 5 programs, initiatives, and news at [www.epa.gov/region5/](http://www.epa.gov/region5/)

Region 5 contacts, publications, and the Agenda for Action at  
[www.epa.gov/region5/about.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/about.htm)

environmental work pertaining to the Great Lakes at  
[www.epa.gov/grtlakes/](http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/)

EPA's national reinvention efforts at [www.epa.gov/reinvent/](http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/) and EPA's  
Strategic Plan at [www.epa.gov/ocfo/plantoc.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plantoc.htm)

## EPA Strategic Goals

### GOAL 1

#### Clean Air:

The air in every American community will be safe and healthy to breathe. In particular, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments will be protected from health risks of breathing polluted air. Reducing air pollution will also protect the environment, resulting in many benefits, such as restoring life in damaged ecosystems and reducing health risks to those whose subsistence depends directly on those ecosystems.

### GOAL 2

#### Clean and Safe Water:

All Americans will have drinking water that is clean and safe to drink. Effective protection of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and coastal and ocean waters will sustain fish, plants, and wildlife, as well as recreational, subsistence, and economic activities. Watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems will be restored and protected to improve human health, enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife.

### GOAL 3

#### Safe Food:

The foods Americans eat will be free from unsafe pesticide residues. Children, especially, will be protected from the health threats posed by pesticide residues because they are among the most vulnerable groups in our society.



#### **GOAL 4**

##### **Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces, and Ecosystems:**

Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at cost-effectively eliminating, reducing, or minimizing emissions and contamination will result in a cleaner and safer environment in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this Nation.

#### **GOAL 5**

##### **Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response:**

America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and to the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restore them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste-related or industrial accidents.

#### **GOAL 6**

##### **Reduction of Global and Cross-Border Environmental Risks:**

The United States will lead other nations in successful, multilateral efforts to reduce significant risks to human health and ecosystems from climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, and other hazards of international concern.

#### **GOAL 7**

##### **Expansion of Americans' Right to Know About their Environment:**

Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.

#### **GOAL 8**

##### **Sound Science, Improved Understanding of Environmental Risk, and Greater Innovation in Dealing with Environmental Problems:**

EPA will develop and apply the best available science for dealing with current and future environmental hazards, as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection.

**GOAL 9**

**A Credible Deterrent to Pollution and Greater Compliance with the Law:**

EPA will ensure full compliance with laws intended to protect public health and the environment.

**GOAL 10**

**Effective Management:**

EPA will establish a management infrastructure that will set and implement the highest quality standards for effective internal management and fiscal responsibility.



