

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2007 COA Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem

Annex 2: Harmful Pollutants

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
Integration Work Group Meeting
Windsor, ON September 20, 2007



2007 COA

- effective 24 June 2007
- Goal is to “restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem...”
- Establishes common priorities
- Supports:
 - Canada’s delivery of commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)
 - Ontario’s programs for the protection of health and the environment

Annex 2: Harmful Pollutants

Goals:

- Continue progress toward virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances;
- Reduce other harmful pollutants and initiate a program for managing chemical substances for the Great Lakes Basin; and
- Enhance knowledge regarding harmful pollutants for the development of policies and programs to further reduce releases and mitigate risk

Goal 1 - *Virtual Elimination*

- Result 1.1: Tier 1 substances
 - Voluntary agreements, Best management practices (e.g., PCB phase out)
 - Education and outreach (e.g., burn barrels, wood stove change over)
 - Waste diversion (e.g., fluorescent lamp collection)
 - Regulations (e.g., PCB reg), standards and guidelines

Goal 2 - *Reduction*

- Result 2.1: Criteria Air Pollutants – Smog forming chemicals
 - Links to Canada-US Air Quality Agreement, Canada-Wide Standards, and Anti-Smog Action Plan
 - Transboundary air - workshops and information exchange;
 - Diesel retrofits
 - Technical studies to support reduction initiatives
 - Industrial regulations

Goal 2 - *Reduction*

- Result 2.2: Municipal wastewater effluents and sludge
 - Linked to Canada-wide strategy for municipal wastewater effluent
 - Technology development / optimization for the treatment of harmful pollutants in effluent and sludge
 - Biosolids application - best management practices
 - Sewer use - best management practices

Goal 2 - *Reduction*

- Result 2.3: Sound management of chemicals
 - Context:
 - mechanism to continuously review, prioritize and act on substances of concern to protect human and environmental health in the Basin.
 - Approach:
 - *Education and Outreach*: targeting all members of the Great Lakes community
 - *Building Partnerships*: collaborative partnerships to establish priorities and develop voluntary initiatives.
 - *Regulatory Programs*: Links to current programs and focus their attention to priorities in the Basin.

Result 2.3: *Commitments*

1) Identify substances for action

- What substances should be prioritized for action in the Great Lakes?
 - based on nomination by various lists (e.g., CEPA Chemicals Management Plan (CMP), Stockholm POPs, COA Tier 2), presence in the Basin, concentrations measured in the Basin (above an established benchmark?)

2) Identify sectors

- Industrial emissions? Consumer products?

3) Inventory programs

- What is already being done to address these substances in Ontario, Canada and internationally?
- Is there a role for a COA program?

Result 2.3: *Commitments cont'd.*

4) Consult with sectors

- Identify opportunities and develop programs and projects for reductions in uses and/or releases;

5) Determine best practices

- Promote and support the development of best practices for reducing or eliminating the production, use and/or release of substances identified for action.

6) Reach out and educate

- Reduce exposure and public contribution to environmental releases; develop programs for the safe collection and disposal of consumer products

7) Improve access to information

- Enhance pollutant release profiles in the Basin

Result 2.3: *Links to Current Programs*

- International
 - Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy?
 - Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Federal
 - Chemicals Management Plan
 - Clean Air Regulatory Agenda
- Provincial
 - Beyond Compliance Initiative
 - Source Water Protection

Goal 3 - *Enhance Knowledge*

- Result 3.1 - Sources, fate and impacts
 - Maintain profiles on Tier 1 substances
 - Monitor priority and emerging substances of concern
 - Carry out field and laboratory studies to assess impacts in the Basin

Goal 3 - *Enhance Knowledge*

- Result 3.2 - Human health risks
 - Support environmental health networks and standards development
 - Prioritize substances under the federal CMP according to health concern
 - Initiate programs for children's environmental health
 - Support research linking environmental exposure with human health effects

2007 COA

- Mandated review of the Agreement by 2009 with public consultation and reporting
- Will consider the recommendations of the GLWQA review in its own review of COA in 2009.
- Expires 2010
 - aligns with anticipated renegotiation of the GLWQA