UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 3 2011

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Stephen G. Galarneau, Director
Office of the Great Lakes
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Galarneau:

This letter is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) official response to your letter of January 27, 2011, requesting the delisting of the Restrictions on Recreational Contact Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern (AOC). Since this AOC is on the border between Wisconsin and Michigan, this is a joint request from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). As your request points out and the supplied data supports, the following restoration criteria for the Recreational Contact BUI in the Lower Menominee River AOC have been met:

- No waterbodies within the AOC are included on the list of non-attaining waters due to contamination with pathogens from combined sewer overflows in the most recent Clean Water Act Water Quality and Pollution Control in either states: Section 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report, which are submitted to the EPA every two years.

Your supporting documentation states that existing WDNR monitoring records indicate that the Recreational Contact BUI criteria for water quality have been met and that the Wisconsin portion of the Lower Menominee River AOC is not listed as impaired for pathogens in the 2008 or 2010 Integrated Reports.

Based upon EPA's review of your request and the supporting data, and upon our shared desire to show progress as we move all of the Great Lakes AOCs toward restoration of all BUIs and formal delisting, EPA approves your request for the delisting of the Recreational Contact BUI in the Lower Menominee River AOC. EPA will notify the International Joint Commission (IJC) of this significant positive change in the environmental health of this AOC.

We congratulate all of the parties involved in this Federal/State/local partnership. This has been instrumental in achieving this important environmental improvement

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which will benefit the citizens of the Lower Menominee River AOC, the States of Wisconsin and Michigan, and of the Great Lakes Basin. We look forward to the continuation of this important and productive relationship with the WDNR and the local coordinating committees as we work together to fully restore all of Wisconsin's AOCs.

If I or my staff can be of further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Gary V. Gulezian
Director

cc:
Patricia Birkholz, MDNRE
Sharon Baker, MDNRE
Ben Uvass, WDNR
Kendra Axness, WDNR
Dr. Saad Jasim, Director, Great Lakes Regional Office, IJC
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