

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.
Chair, Canadian Section



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

Le très hon. Herb Gray, C.P., C.C., C.R.
Président, Section canadienne

July 31, 2006

The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister MacKay:

In accordance with its role under the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement as amended by the 1987 Protocol, and as requested by Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment, the International Joint Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the Stage 2 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Commission's comments are enclosed.

The Commission was pleased to note that an ecosystem approach has been demonstrated in the restoration and protection of beneficial uses in the Thunder Bay AOC. The replacement of approximately 48,000 square meters of new or altered fish habitat also demonstrates progress. Overall, however, the Commission is of the view that the Stage 2 RAP report did not meet the full requirements of Annex 2 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement as specified in subparagraphs 4 (d)(iii), (iv), (v), and (vi). Other measures are required for the Commission to evaluate the adequacy of the remedial measures taken to restore beneficial uses in the AOC, including:

1. Undertake further testing and develop a management plan for remaining sediment contamination which exceeds the lowest effect level in Guidelines for the Protection and Management of Aquatic Sediment Quality in Ontario;
2. Better assess and address the relationship of residual contamination to the continuing incidence of tumours or other deformities in white sucker;
3. Monitor and collect better information for restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and fish and wildlife community ecosystem improvements; and,
4. Complete the selection of remedial measures.

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Consistent with its current policy, the Commission intends to release these comments to the public.

A similar letter has been sent to the United States Secretary of State by the Chair of the U.S. Section of the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Herb Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.

Attachment: Review of Thunder Bay Stage 2 RAP

cc: Pradeep Kharé, Ontario Regional Director General, Environment Canada
Michael Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of the Environment