

Concluding Remarks



The success of the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan (NRTMP) is an important, but under-publicized, Great Lakes remediation success story. The continued documentation provided by the upstream/downstream monitoring and related biomonitoring is needed to ensure the protection of beneficial uses as they are restored. The level of cooperation displayed by agencies in implementing the NRTMP serves as a model for cost-effective planning and implementation. In particular, its monitoring activities and progress reporting to the public should be considered a model for possible use elsewhere in the Great Lakes basin.

In order to fully restore beneficial uses in this connecting channel, a clear statement of required actions is needed and adequate funding, toward the timely implementation of the planned actions, is necessary. Enhanced efforts devoted to public consultation also are required. Continued coordination among the New York RAP, the Ontario RAP and the NRTMP will sustain public interest and maintain focus on the restoration of beneficial uses. Steps must also be taken to protect the considerable progress achieved in reducing the contaminants reaching the Niagara River from the hazardous waste sites.