

The Status Assessment Process

Status Assessments are intended to: examine and encourage progress toward restoration and protection of beneficial uses; assess program implementation relative to necessary remedial and preventive actions; and identify and make recommendations on specific activities that could be taken to overcome challenges and make measurable progress in restoring beneficial uses in the area. Status Assessments are not comprehensive environmental audits, but rather, assessments of ongoing efforts and activities of the responsible governments and organizations. The Status Assessment process is intended to promote the restoration of beneficial uses through the collection of information and transfer of successful methods and experiences among different AOCs and facilitation of constructive interaction among various agencies and organizations that may have limited opportunity to exchange ideas. The Niagara River AOC Status Assessment is the fourth such assessment undertaken by the Commission.

Current Status Assessment

The Status Assessment of the Niagara River AOC was conducted between May 2000 and April 2002 and included consultation between representatives of the Commission, including Commissioners, staff members and Science Advisory Board members, and citizens, government agencies, local industries, Niagara River Restoration Council, Niagara River Remedial Action Committee, the Tuscarora Nation, and Great Lakes United. This consultation process included a public meeting conducted by the Commission's Science Advisory Board.

The Status Assessment process included an examination of funding, institutional structure, roles of the Parties, jurisdictions and other sectors, and public consultation. This evaluation also examines those activities occurring outside of the RAP structure that foster restoration and protection of beneficial uses within the AOC.