

Notable Successes

Advances toward restoration of the Niagara River AOC were recognized during the Status Assessment. Notable successes are detailed below.

- **Considerable reductions in contaminant loadings have been achieved.**

Implementation of the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan has resulted in significant reductions of the loading of toxic chemicals to the Niagara River. For example, it is estimated that actions by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to remediate hazardous waste sites have resulted in a reduction of potential inputs to the River from hazardous waste sites by about 90 percent since 1989.

- **Significant contributions toward achieving the goals of the Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan have been made.**

Loading reductions achieved through implementation of Niagara River Toxics Management Plan are contributing toward the goals of the Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan. Eighteen persistent toxic substances including PCBs have been targeted. Figure 1 demonstrates the reduction in contributions from Niagara River sources to the PCB load entering Lake Ontario via the Niagara River.

- **Long-term monitoring programs have been established and maintained.**

Upstream/Downstream monitoring and biomonitoring conducted by Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy, respectively, provide scientifically defensible data that document the instream and downstream benefits that accrue due to remedial actions taken within the Niagara River AOC. For example, biomonitoring results have been useful in both identifying contaminated sediment problems and confirming the benefits of remedial efforts. As noted by the Commission's Science Advisory Board, these monitoring and surveillance programs should be considered for replication in the other Great Lakes connecting channels.

- **Unique binational division of labor arrangements have been utilized.**

A unique division of labor between Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation toward implementation of the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan, has proved to be very cost effective. This activity is a notable example of binational cooperation toward achieving a common goal.