

Chicago, July 16, 2004

Resolution # 8

Presented by: **Richard M. DALEY**, Mayor of Chicago, Illinois

**IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, persistent contaminated sediments in the bottom of harbors and rivers in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence basin have been an ongoing concern for many years because of the potential risk to aquatic organisms, wildlife and humans; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission identified the 42 most contaminated areas in the Great Lakes basin and designated such areas as “Areas of Concern” recognizing that these areas should be given priority for cleanup due to the potential harm they can cause; and

WHEREAS, before the cleanup of any “Areas of Concerns” can begin, a characterization of the nature and extent of contamination must be conducted and a detailed plan must be agreed upon for how the contaminated sediments problems will be remediated; and

WHEREAS, the process prior to the cleanup of any “Area of Concern” requires the involvement of and agreement among numerous federal agencies, working in conjunction with state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, despite strong interest and commitments on the part of the states and local governments to expeditiously address “Areas of Concern”, to date there have been ongoing conflicts among the federal agencies involved in the cleanups of “Areas of Concern” and failure on the part of various federal agencies to reach agreement among each other; and

WHEREAS, for instance, the project to dredge the Indiana Harbor and Shipping Canal in East Chicago, Indiana, which has been identified by the U.S. EPA as the most significant polluter of the Great Lakes, was first initiated around 1990 and actual dredging, which was initially scheduled to commence in 2001, was recently postponed until 2007 due to an inability to reconcile the objectives of the U.S. EPA and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, the lingering presence of contaminated sediments in harbors and tributaries of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin has an ongoing and adverse impact on the environment, economy and quality of life in communities where such contaminated sediments are located;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors call upon the federal government to work toward immediate improvements in coordination and communication among federal agencies with respect to cleaning up the most contaminated areas of the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors call upon the federal government to work toward immediate improvements in coordination and communication among federal agencies with respect to all issues involving the long-term restoration and protection of Great Lakes.

**CARRIED**