

# Excerpts from 2012 *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*

[2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#)

## Article 2

### Purpose, Principles and Approaches

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Waters of the Great Lakes. To achieve this purpose, the Parties agree to maximize their efforts to:

- (a) cooperate and collaborate;
- (b) develop programs, practices and technology necessary for a better understanding of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem; and
- (c) eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, environmental threats to the Waters of the Great Lakes.....

3. The Parties recognize that it is necessary to take action to resolve existing environmental problems, as well as to anticipate and prevent environmental problems, by implementing measures that are sufficiently protective to achieve the purpose of this Agreement.

## Article 6 Notification and Response

The Parties acknowledge the importance of anticipating, preventing and responding to threats to the Waters of the Great Lakes. The Parties commit to the following notification and response process:

- (a) if a Party becomes aware of a pollution incident, or the imminent threat of a pollution incident, that could be of joint concern to both of the Parties, it shall notify the other Party in accordance with the requirements set out in the Canada-United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan and the Canada-United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. A pollution incident is a release of any pollutant of a magnitude that causes or may cause damage to the Waters of the Great Lakes or may constitute a threat to public safety, security, health, welfare, or property;
- (c) the Parties shall notify each other, through the Great Lakes Executive Committee, of planned activities that could lead to a pollution incident or that could have a significant cumulative impact on the Waters of the Great Lakes, such as:
  - (i) the storage and transfer of nuclear waste or radioactive materials;  
\* \* \*
  - (vi) nuclear facilities;
  - (vii) hazardous waste storage;

# Excerpts from 2012 *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*

## Mandate of Great Lakes Executive Committee

The [2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#) (GLWQA) calls for the Governments of the United States and Canada to establish a Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) to help coordinate and implement the programs and other measures undertaken to achieve the purpose of the GLWQA.

## GLEC Terms of Reference

The [GLEC Terms of Reference](#) outlines the mandate and role of GLEC, the membership of the committee, the functions of the GLEC Secretariat, and the presence of observers at the GLEC meetings.

## 2. MANDATE

Pursuant to Article 5 of the GLWQA, the GLEC will meet at least twice each year, alternating between Canada and the U.S., as directed by the Parties. If mutually agreed upon by the Parties, GLEC meetings need not be conducted in-person. Meetings of the GLEC and its members shall serve as discussion fora with the purpose of providing advice to the Parties via the two GLEC Co-Chairs, one from each Party. The Parties may also consider advice from other bodies in making any decisions.

The role of the GLEC is to help coordinate, implement, review and report on programs, practices and measures undertaken to achieve the purpose of the GLWQA by:

Providing the Parties with perspectives and insights from federal agencies, state and provincial governments, tribal governments, First Nations, Métis, municipal governments, watershed management agencies, and local public agencies on issues relating to the implementation of the GLWQA.

Advising the Parties on establishing binational priorities for science and action.

Advising the Parties on work priorities for the Annex subcommittees to ensure effective implementation of the GLWQA.

Advising the Parties on the preparation of the Progress Report of the Parties.  
December 20, 2012 2 of 5

Recommending chemicals of mutual concern to the Parties.

Providing a forum for the Parties and GLEC members to report on domestic and binational action and progress in the Great Lakes.

Providing a forum for the Parties to notify each other of planned activities that could lead to a pollution incident or that could have a significant cumulative impact on the Great Lakes.

Providing a forum for non-member participants to provide input and advice, as appropriate