



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Great Lakes Activists  
**From:** Pollution Probe and Friends  
**Re:** Government Report Card  
Project for IJC Biennial Meeting  
**Date:** September 14, 1993

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### **Citizens' Biennial Report Card On Government Action for Great Lakes Protection**

Greetings! How well have the governments performed since the last International Joint Commission (IJC) Biennial Meeting in terms of cleaning-up the Great Lakes? That is the question that a project coordinated by Pollution Probe is asking. We are asking for your support and to sponsor a report card to be released at the upcoming IJC 7th Biennial Meeting in Windsor.

#### **About the Report Card...**

We are preparing an inventory and analysis of Great Lakes governments' actions relating to toxic chemicals. The review will assess governments' obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and the implementation of the International Joint Commission's recommendations.

We are asking for your help in evaluating the following topics:

- \* Action on Persistent Toxic Substances (Zero Discharge Goal of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement)
- \* Action on Non-persistent Toxic Substances ("Toxics prohibited in toxic amounts" Obligation under GLWQA)
- \* Remediation Issues (Virtual Elimination Goal under GLWQA)
- \* Binational Toxic Management Strategy (IJC Recommendation)
- \* Lake Superior Issues (IJC Recommendations)

- \* RAPs/LWMPs Issues (GLWQA Requirements)
- \* Information/Data Analysis (GLWQA Requirements)

In addition to this "report card," the review will also outline a broad citizens' agenda for zero discharge. One of the cornerstones of this agenda is to support past IJC recommendations.

The report will also have a section on "What Has Happened to the Great Lakes Ecosystem since the Last Biennial Meeting." For example, we estimate that, since the Traverse City meeting, over one billion pounds of toxics have been discharged to the Great Lakes.

### What You Can Do....

We would like support for this initiative. We need your help! These are the things we are seeking your assistance on:

- \* On October 4th, we will be forwarding a draft report card without the grades. We want your input on what grade should be given along with supporting material for each of the categories listed above. We will then average the grades from those submitted;
- \* Submit any facts, information or other material that illustrates what has happened to the Great Lakes ecosystem since the last Biennial Meeting; and
- \* On October 8th, after revisions are completed, you will receive a copy of the final draft of the report for your group to sign on to the report card and help release it.

We do need your help! Since we are working within a strict timeframe, we will be phoning you in a few days to see if your group can assist us in this endeavour.

Citizens' Biennial Government Report Card Project Team:

John Jackson, Paul Muldoon, Karen Murphy, Fé de Leon, Bruce Lourie, Bill Glenn, and Mary Ginnebaugh.

If you have any questions regarding our request please contact Fé de Leon at Pollution Probe (416) 926-1907.

Thank you.