

Dear Friend:

A few weeks ago, you were among a select group of individuals invited to serve on an "Experts Panel" that will address the potential ecological impacts of water withdrawals in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. Your advice, and that of other experts from a number of scientific disciplines, will contribute to the development of a scientifically sound and legally defensible process for water management decisionmaking. Supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund and undertaken at the request of the region's governors, the project is being coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission with the assistance of Limno Tech, Inc. (A project overview, provided to you in previous correspondence, is again attached for your convenience.)

Thank you for indicating your willingness to serve on the Experts Panel. The intent of this letter is to provide additional guidance as you develop a list of "essential questions" about ecological impacts (per our earlier request); and invite you to participate in the Experts Workshop, scheduled for November 13-14 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

1) In earlier correspondence (September 25), we invited you to prepare a list of, and brief rationale for questions that you believe must be asked to ascertain the ecological impacts of any given water withdrawal proposal. We also invited you to forward, if available, a list of relevant literature/projects. To help guide your thoughts, we've attached a guidance sheet and series of matrices designed to elicit such questions on the basis of prospective water sources, the affected water body and environmental components, and the various stressors and associated impacts the withdrawal may incur. You need not, of course, feel compelled to generate questions for each and every cell on these matrices. However, we thought the matrices and the questions selectively inserted in them might stimulate thought as you approach this from your own scientific discipline.

Note: The requested date for submitting your essential questions and associated rationale has been extended to October 26 to allow more time for you to consider these important issues. Please direct your submittals to Joe DePinto at the address below.

2) Also attached is a preliminary agenda for the November 13-14 Experts Workshop. The event will be held at the Campus Inn, located at 615 E. Huron in downtown Ann Arbor adjacent to the University of Michigan's central campus. Through a series of plenary and breakout sessions, we'll be refining the list of "essential questions" and examining other decisionmaking tools (e.g., computer models) that can provide the basis for ecological impact assessment. And, we'll be looking at the policy implications of this work to ensure that the collective advice of the experts will be accommodated in a decision support system for prospective use by the region's governors and premiers.

Note: Please confirm your availability to join us at the workshop by contacting Joe DePinto at the address below. The requested response deadline is October 26. A block of sleeping rooms for the nights of November 12 and 13 has been reserved under the Great Lakes Commission name for \$89.00 plus tax. Call the Campus Inn (734-769-2200) promptly to secure a sleeping room. They won't last long!

Thanks again for lending your time and expertise to a critically important scientific and public policy issue. We ask that you act promptly to provide the essential questions and confirm your availability for the workshop. And, of course, we welcome a call should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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