



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 18 2009

Mail Code: R-19J

Mr. Chris Korleski
Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Mr. Joseph P. Koncelik
Chairman
Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Messrs. Korleski and Koncelik:

Thank you for your request of May 4, 2009, for delisting select Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC). We have reviewed your request and we are pleased to congratulate you on the progress you have made in addressing the impairments on the Cuyahoga River. We also wish to commend all the parties who have contributed to the success of these efforts. Their work has been instrumental in achieving this progress and in documenting the impressive results, which contribute directly to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

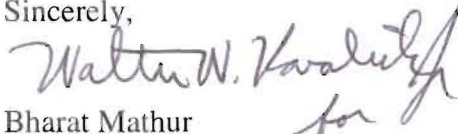
More specifically, we recognize the significant gains you have made in major portions of the watershed regarding: Degradation of Fish Populations; Loss of Fish Habitat; Fish Tumors and Other Deformities; and Degradation of Benthos. We agree with your documentation that the specific segments identified in your request are no longer impaired and now meet the requirements for delisting. We are impressed with the successes you have achieved on these impairments, and agree they are worthy of celebration.

Given your supporting data, we also approve a change in status of the following BUIs from *Unknown* to *Not Impaired*: Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor, Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations (the wildlife component), and Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems. We will notify the International Joint Commission of these changes.

Your sustained efforts have achieved real progress toward full restoration and we look forward to working with you to achieve delisting of the entire AOC and to meeting our obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada.

If you have any questions, please contact John Perrecone of my staff, at 312-353-1149 or perrecone.john@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


for
Bharat Mathur
Acting Great Lakes National Program Manager