

Council of Great Lakes Governors

Fact Sheet: Protecting the Great Lakes through the Annex Implementing Agreements

What we are doing:

- The eight Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec have come together to create unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes Basin.*
- Through the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the staffs of the Governors and Premiers have worked closely with an Advisory Committee including agricultural, industrial, shipping, municipal, and environmental interests and consulted with Tribes and First Nations to arrive at the best possible protections.

Why we are doing it:

- There are potential threats to the waters of the Great Lakes, and they promise to increase. We are looking ahead and taking protective steps to avoid potential conflicts and shortages and to protect the Great Lakes environment for future generations.
- The Great Lakes resource is critical to our economy, including manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and power supply. We must use the water wisely to help ensure that it remains at healthy levels to maintain a lasting competitive economic advantage in our region.
- These protections ensure that authority over the Great Lakes Basin remains in the region and that the Governors and Premiers are recognized as the primary decision makers and protectors of this valuable resource.

Where we go from here:

- An opportunity for public comment will begin when the draft agreements are released this summer, and will last at least ninety days. There will be multiple public meetings to discuss the documents and receive comments, including regional meetings in Chicago and Toronto. Written comments may also be sent to the Council of Great Lakes Governors or posted publicly on the Council's Web site, www.cglg.org.
- Following the public comment period, the staffs of the Governors and Premiers will determine changes based on public feedback.
- The Governors and Premiers will sign the final agreement, which will provide the framework for each State and Province to pass laws that will protect the Great Lakes Basin today and for future generations.

** The "Great Lakes Basin" is the watershed of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River upstream from Trois-Rivières Québec. This region includes the geographic areas surrounding each body of water where water drains toward the Lakes and the River.*