



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
OHIO EPA

JUL 17 2002

WS-15J

Christopher Jones, Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Dear Mr. Jones:

This letter is in response to submittal of Clean Water 2000, 208 Water Quality Management Plan for Northeast Ohio, dated November 9, 2000, and a modification to Table 4.1, dated March 9, 2001, as certified by Governor Bob Taft in November 2001. These were submitted updates to the Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plan and the State's Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan.

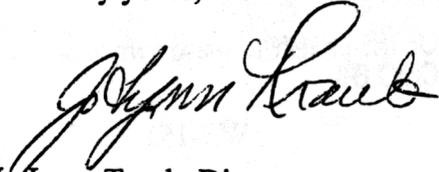
While the Plan contains information for five major tributaries to Lake Erie, the certification is only for the area served by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Within this area, it provides partial fulfillment of the requirements of a WQM plan as defined in Federal Regulation 40 CFR 130.6. Our full evaluation of the Plan, along with recognition that the plan also contains useful watershed information beyond the scope of a WQM plan, which is not subject to USEPA approval, will be provided to your staff. I am approving this Plan as a component of the State's WQM Plan, with the understanding defined in those comments.

I want to acknowledge the substantial effort that the preparation of this plan represents, including the extensive efforts of the NOACA and the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization staffs and the State's participation on the advisory committee.

Our staffs have been working to enhance the Ohio continuing planning process (CPP) to more fully define the nature of and schedule for preparation of the balance of the Cleveland Areawide Plan and other WQM plans for Ohio. I look forward to the completion of the description of the CPP and receipt of additional components to complete and update the State's WQM Plan.

Please contact me or have staff contact Harlan D. Hirt at (312) 353-4378 for further assistance in the development of the WQM plans for Ohio.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Je Lynn Traub". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Je Lynn Traub, Director  
Water Division