



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

JUL 21 2010

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

Dear Mr. Korleski:

Thank you for your June 1, 2010 submittal, "*Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Boundary Expansion Request*" in which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), in conjunction with the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee (RAP), requested an expansion of the Area of Concern (AOC) boundary. The request would extend the upper boundary of the AOC from the Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, from River Mile 45.1 to River Mile 46.5 which will incorporate the Gorge Dam pool into the AOC.

As stated in your submission, the RAP has made remarkable progress over the years in improving the water quality in a number of streams due to the removal of two smaller dams as well as via other habitat restoration projects. Also, based upon studies conducted with the National Park Service, there is an opportunity to remove the Brecksville Dam at River Mile 20 located in the AOC within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Completion of these projects will leave the Gorge Dam as the last impediment to unrestricted fish passage in the lower 59 miles of the Cuyahoga River mainstem. Restoring this habitat and hydrology of the river system is critical to the continued restoration of the AOC and is expected to result in delisting of most of the beneficial use impairments in the entire mainstem portion of the AOC.

Based upon your narrative and the accompanying maps, EPA agrees with this boundary modification request. We will send a letter explaining the modification to the International Joint Commission via EPA's Office of International Affairs and the U. S. Department of State. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the proper Canadian Federal and Provincial Agencies. Finally, the modifications will be incorporated into the Great Lakes National Program Office Areas of Concern website.

I am looking forward to working with you and your staff at OEPA and the RAP group in moving this AOC towards delisting and in helping the GLRI achieve its environmental goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary V. Gulezian".

Gary V. Gulezian
Director

cc:

Mr. Joseph P. Koncelik, RAP Committee

Mr. Kelvin Rogers, OEPA

Ms. Julie Letterhos, OEPA

Mr. Gary Gulezian, USEPA

Mr. David Barna, USEPA

Mr. John Perrecone, USEPA

Mr. Gary Prichard, USEPA

Director, Great Lakes Regional Office, IJC

Mr. Pete Christich, USEPA-Office of International Affairs

Mr. Michael Goffin