UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 0 7 2009

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

Thomas Easterly
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue - Room# N1003
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Directly Funding Air Environmental Program Co-Regulator Organizations

Dear Mr. Easterly:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, will allocate Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, and possibly FY 2010, funding for the Great Lakes Geographic Initiative. The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is acting as the co-regulator organization for the eight Great Lakes States implementing this initiative. Consistent with our earlier request to provide continuing environmental program (CEP) funds to non-profit co-regulator organizations, we now seek your approval to fund the GLC. We recognize that this organization provides a great deal of support to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the other member states in implementing state air pollution control programs and providing a mechanism to address multi-jurisdictional concerns of the Great Lakes States. We wish to ensure that you are aware of and involved in the process of directing annual CEP funds to this organization to support the Great Lakes Geographic Initiative.

On December 1, 2006, EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment issued a memorandum entitled, "Approval Process for State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) to State Co-Regulator Organizations." Consistent with the requirements of this memorandum, EPA must request and obtain the consent of the head of the affected state agency or department when using STAG funds redirected from State CEP grant allotments under 40 C.F.R. Part 35 Subpart A to make an award to a state co-regulator organization. Accordingly, I am seeking your consent to make a non-competitive assistance award to the GLC.

EPA proposes to provide approximately $1,218,550 to the GLC under the Great Lakes National Geographic Initiative, which is listed as a specific line item in EPA's annual budget. The GLC implements the Great Lakes Air Deposition Program to safeguard the environment and human health from the adverse effects of atmospherically deposited toxic contaminants. It accomplishes this through the creation of a comprehensive inventory of toxic air contaminant releases throughout the Great Lakes region, as well as by supporting research projects to better identify and assess the extent of atmospheric deposition of persistent toxic substances to the Great Lakes.

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If you approve of CEP FY 2009, and possibly FY 2010, funds being directed to GLC to continue environmental projects that support your state's air pollution control program and the Great Lakes National Geographic Initiative, please sign the attached signature document and fax it to Shari Holloway of my staff, at 312-697-2001, or send an electronic version to holloway.shari@epa.gov.

Please note, however, that we are considering the possibility of distributing the FY 2010 funds, should they become available, directly to the Great Lakes States.

Please feel free to contact me or Cheryl L. Newton, Air and Radiation Division Director, at 312-353-6730, for further information about this approval request.

Sincerely,

Walter W. Kovalick, Jr.

Bharat Mathur for
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Daniel Murray
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Air Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER PERMISSION TO FUND GREAT LAKES COMMISSION WITH CONTINUING ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM FUNDS

SIGNATURE DOCUMENT

The undersigned hereby approves the redirection of a portion of Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Fiscal Year 2009 and possibly Fiscal Year 2010 continuing environmental program funds to the Great Lakes Commission to continue work that supports the great lakes states in implementing state air pollution control programs and addressing multi-jurisdictional air environmental issues, under the direction of Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Assistant Commissioner for Air.

_____ _____

Thomas Easterly
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date

Please return the signed document to:

Shari Holloway
Project Officer
EPA, Region 5
Air and Radiation Division

E-mail address: Holloway.shari@epa.gov
or FAX number (312) 697-2001

Standard bccs:	official file copy w/attachment originator's file copy w/attachment originating organization reading file w/attachment
other bccs:	Shari Holloway via e-mail