September 2003

Interstate Assessment Reaches for Upper Mississippi River Water Quality Reporting Memorandum of Understanding

Prepared by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Water Quality Task Force
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association  
Water Quality Task Force  

Interstate Assessment Reaches  
for Upper Mississippi River Water Quality Reporting  
Memorandum of Understanding  

September 2003  

Purpose  
The purpose of this agreement is to establish a minimum set of assessment reaches on the Upper Mississippi River for use in preparing 305(b) water quality assessments and listing 303(d) impaired waters under the Clean Water Act.  

Findings  
The Upper Mississippi River is a precious natural resource of both regional and national significance. The river’s economic and environmental importance is evidenced by its ecologically rich fish and wildlife habitat and its use for municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supplies; commercial navigation; hydroelectric power and energy production; recreation; and mining.  

The Upper Mississippi River is an interstate waterbody that both forms the boundary between states and transports water and pollutants from upstream states to downstream states. In addition, the Mississippi River is a large floodplain river system that has been structurally altered, affecting its flow and ecological structure. In combination, these factors present significant scientific and management challenges.  

The states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, share a continuing responsibility for protecting and enhancing the water quality of the Upper Mississippi River.  

Effective water quality monitoring, assessment, and management on the Upper Mississippi River requires enhanced coordination of existing activities.
A minimum set of interstate assessment reaches on the Upper Mississippi River will provide the first step toward enhanced coordination of water quality assessments and management decisions. In particular, the use of uniform assessment reaches on the Upper Mississippi River will facilitate interstate comparisons and provide a common foundation for ongoing and future interstate coordination efforts.

THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. A minimum set of 13 assessment reaches is established on the Upper Mississippi River between the mouth of the Ohio River and the mouth of the St. Croix River, based on United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Codes. These reaches, which generally correspond to the river's major geomorphologic segments, include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)</th>
<th>HUC Name</th>
<th>Starting River Mile</th>
<th>Ending River Mile</th>
<th>Segment Length (mile)</th>
<th>Segment Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07040001</td>
<td>Rush-Vermillion</td>
<td>811.5</td>
<td>763.4</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>St. Croix River to Chippewa River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07040003</td>
<td>Buffalo-Whitewater</td>
<td>763.4</td>
<td>714.2</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>Chippewa River to Lock and Dam 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07040006</td>
<td>LaCrosse-Pine</td>
<td>714.2</td>
<td>693.7</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>Lock and Dam 6 to Root River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07060001</td>
<td>Coon-Yellow</td>
<td>693.7</td>
<td>630.7</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>Root River to Wisconsin River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07060003</td>
<td>Grant-Maquoketa</td>
<td>630.7</td>
<td>583.0</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>Wisconsin River to Lock and Dam 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07060005</td>
<td>Apple-Plum</td>
<td>583.0</td>
<td>522.5</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>Lock and Dam 11 to Lock and Dam 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07080101</td>
<td>Copperas-Duck</td>
<td>522.5</td>
<td>434.0</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>Lock and Dam 13 to Iowa River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07080104</td>
<td>Flint-Henderson</td>
<td>434.0</td>
<td>361.4</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>Iowa River to Des Moines River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07110001</td>
<td>Bear-Wyaconda</td>
<td>361.4</td>
<td>324.9</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>Des Moines River to Lock and Dam 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07110004</td>
<td>The Sny</td>
<td>324.9</td>
<td>236.7</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>Lock and Dam 21 to Cuivre River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07110009</td>
<td>Perouque-Piasa</td>
<td>236.7</td>
<td>195.7</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>Cuivre River to Missouri River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07140101</td>
<td>Cahokia-Joachim</td>
<td>195.7</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>Missouri River to Kaskaskia River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07140105</td>
<td>Upper Miss.- Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>Kaskaskia River to Ohio River</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin agree, to the extent authorized by state law and policies, to utilize the above minimum set of assessment reaches in development of their Clean Water Act 305(b) assessments and 303(d) impaired waters listings for the Upper Mississippi River.

3. The states agree to review and, as necessary, revise the set of assessment reaches if new information or other conditions warrant.
Marcia Willhite
Bureau Chief
Division of Water Pollution Control
Bureau of Water
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Wayne Gieselman
Division Administrator
Environmental Sciences Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Lisa Thorvig
Assistant Commissioner
Water Policy
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Jim Hull
Director
Water Pollution Control Program
Water Protection & Soil Conservation Division
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Todd Ambs
Administrator
Division of Water
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources