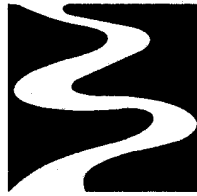


**September 2003**



**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  
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**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.

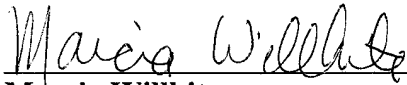
A minimum set of interstate assessment reaches on the Upper Mississippi River will provide the first step toward enhanced coordination of water quality assessments and management decisions. In particular, the use of uniform assessment reaches on the Upper Mississippi River will facilitate interstate 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:

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

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.



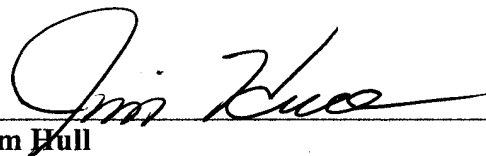
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