

RESOLUTION # 7

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT
REDUCING MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN THE GREAT LAKES

PRESENTED BY:

Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago
Mayor David Miller, Toronto
Mayor Gary Becker, Racine
Mayor Herb Bergson, Duluth
Mayor Timothy Rigby, St. Catharines
Mayor Jerry Irby, Marquette
Mayor Scott King, Gary
Mayor Terry Geddes, Collingwood
Mayor John Piskura, Sheffield Lake

WHEREAS, one of the most significant impairments to the quality of Great Lakes waters has been shown to be mercury contamination; and

WHEREAS, high levels of mercury contamination found in the Great Lakes are the indisputable cause for increasing numbers of health-based fish consumption advisories throughout the Great Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, mercury contamination is a documented neurotoxin, and ingestion of mercury-contaminated fish tissue has been shown to result in significant health risks, particularly for women of child-bearing age and children; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's own analysis concluded that 16% of babies born in the United States this year could have mercury blood levels at or above the unsafe levels as a result of pregnant women ingesting fish from mercury-contaminated waters; and

WHEREAS, according to the EPA, coal-fired power plants in the United States currently account for 48 tons, or 40%, of mercury emissions each year; and

WHEREAS, the EPA recently adopted the first-ever federal regulations requiring coal-fired power plants to reduce the nationwide level of mercury emissions from power plants by 69%; and

WHEREAS, the new mercury regulations allow the power plant industry until 2018 or later to achieve that reduction; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the regulations do not require mercury reductions from every individual power plant, but rather, they establish a "cap-and-trade" system whereby individual power plants choose for themselves whether to over comply with the mercury regulations and "sell" the excess rights to emit mercury to other power plants, or under comply with the regulations and "buy" the excess rights to emit mercury from over compliant plants; and

WHEREAS, some mayors of cities and towns in the Great Lakes region have previously expressed concerns that mercury reductions under EPA's regulations will occur too far in the future and that the "cap and trade" system for achieving mercury reductions may not benefit, and could even be detrimental to, the Great Lakes because it could ultimately allow power plants in that region to increase mercury emissions;

WHEREAS, there are currently Canada-wide Standards for mercury established by the cooperation of federal, provincial and territorial governments under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

WHEREAS, Canada-wide standards have been developed for several significant mercury-emitting sectors, and for select products containing mercury. These include standards for mercury emissions from base metal smelters and incinerators, and for mercury-containing lamps and mercury from dental amalgam wastes, but not for power plants.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the U.S. EPA for adopting the first-ever mercury standards for coal-fired power plants, the Initiative continues to have strong concerns about adverse impacts to the Great Lakes and human health that could result from the protracted deadlines and the "cap and trade" method of compliance set forth in the regulations; and

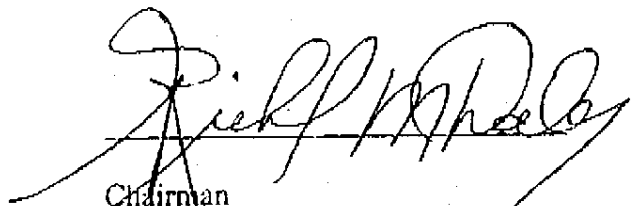
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to advocate for federal legislative proposals that would impose more stringent mercury standards sooner than EPA's current regulations, and that would impose requirements on every individual power plant to reduce its mercury emissions as a replacement for the current "cap and trade" system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the absence of strong federal legislation and for the benefit of human health and the protection of the Great Lakes, the individual mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work with their respective state and provincial governments and work within their own municipalities on efforts to achieve mercury reductions from power plants and from other significant sources of mercury contamination.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage the development of a Canada-wide Standard for mercury emissions from coal-

fired electric power generation, which is currently under development by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

Signed this 26th day of May, 2005, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Meehan". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities
Initiative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miller". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Vice Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities
Initiative