



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 18, 2007**

## **MAYORS CALL FOR LESS POLLUTION FROM BP REFINERY** **TO LAKE MICHIGAN**

Mayors from the United States and Canada are calling on BP and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to ensure that adequate pollution controls are in place to prevent increased toxic discharges to Lake Michigan from an expanded Whiting (IN) refinery. The State of Indiana recently granted exemptions to BP from two longstanding Great Lakes water quality protection policies regarding mixing zones and anti-degradation. The permit for the new facility also allows an increase in BP's pollution discharge into Lake Michigan for ammonia by 54 percent and total suspended solids (which include heavy metals like mercury, selenium, and vanadium) by 35 percent.

The mayors, members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, are deeply disappointed that State and Federal environmental regulators would allow exemptions from the mixing zone requirement and anti-degradation standard, even if discharge limits are met under the permit. BP will be allowed to discharge approximately 580,000 pounds of ammonia and 1,800,000 pounds of suspended solids annually within an area where a number of communities get their drinking water. Cities themselves are already spending millions to control these pollutants.

Mayor Gary Becker of Racine, Chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative said, "BP's permit to increase pollution creates a dangerous precedent that threatens to erase years of water quality progress on the Great Lakes. BP certainly has the resources and expertise to figure out how to keep discharges at or below current levels, especially in light of its advertising about sustainability and the environment."

Mayors recognize that the refinery's modified operations to process Canadian crude oil represent an effort to decrease American dependence on Middle Eastern oil. While this may be an appropriate direction for BP to take, it is not a reason to allow BP to increase its pollution of Lake Michigan. Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago said, "Mayors understand the need for maintaining a robust regional economy. However, we must find ways to demonstrate that economy and environment can co-exist."

Founded in 2003 by Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, and provincial governments to advance the protection

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[www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

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*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*



and restoration of the Great Lakes. The organization has close to 50 members and an additional 50 participating cities from the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces.

**For further information:**

Please visit [www.gslscities.org](http://www.gslscities.org)

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