

Great Lakes Compact Process for Diversion Applications

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Key Concepts

- ✍ Compact applies to groundwater and surface water, including Great Lakes, tributary streams and inland lakes in the Great Lakes Basin.
- ✍ This agreement focuses on water QUANTITY. It does not directly address water QUALITY; however, sustainably managing water quantity has a positive impact on water quality.
- ✍ Other agreements and processes exist to address Great Lakes water quality issues such as the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the US.

Compact Fundamentals

- ✍ Act 227 Implements Compact
- ✍ Water Use Registration and Reporting
- ✍ Management of in-basin water use (Water Use Permitting)
 - ✍ Withdrawal
 - ✍ Consumptive Use
- ✍ Water Conservation & Efficiency
- ✍ Prohibition on diversions
 - ✍ Straddling community/county exceptions
- ✍ Effective Date Dec. 8, 2008



Wisconsin's Great Lakes Basins



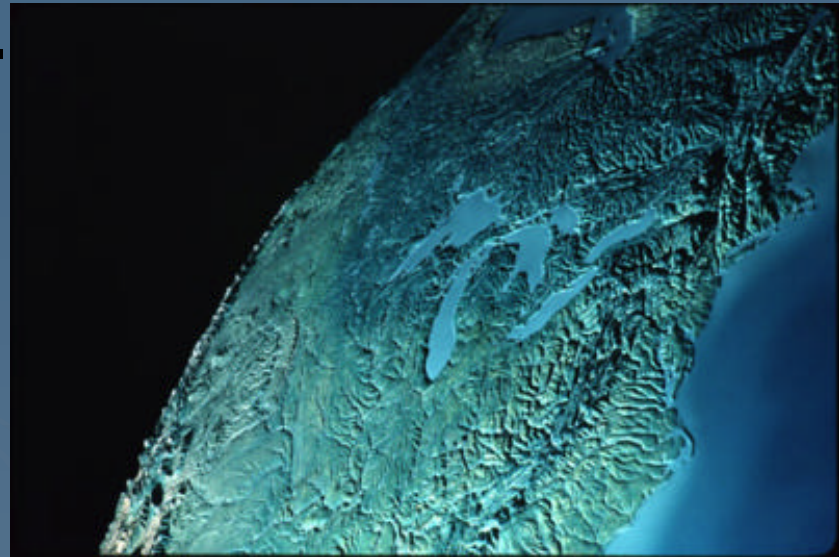
Data Sources:
Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources,
U.S. Geological Survey,
GeoGratis

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Water Division
Office of Great Lakes



Agreement Significance

- ✍ 10 jurisdictions across international boundaries agreeing to manage largest surface freshwater resource in the world collectively.
- ✍ First multi-jurisdictional agreement of this magnitude in the world.



Definitions related to Diversion

- ✍ **Diversion** – transferring water Great Lakes water **out** of the Basin
- ✍ **Straddling community** – a community whose political boundaries ‘straddle’ the Basin’s geographic border; for example, New Berlin
- ✍ **Straddling county** – a county whose political boundaries ‘straddle’ the Basin’s geographic border; for example, Waukesha County

Requirements to apply for a Diversion

- ✍ Straddling community
- ✍ Community in a straddling county
- ✍ Public water supply system
- ✍ Without adequate supply of potable water
- ✍ No reasonable water supply alternative (including water conservation)
- ✍ Diverted water will be returned to the Great Lakes Basin

Application

- ✍ General Requirements
- ✍ Wastewater plan
- ✍ Water supply plan



Application – General Elements

- ✍ No significant adverse impacts to Great Lakes
- ✍ Who will supply water
- ✍ Water conservation implementation
- ✍ Quantity requested is reasonable

Application – Wastewater Plan

- ✍ Location of return
- ✍ Evidence of agreement for return
- ✍ Cost effectiveness analysis of returning water to other systems
- ✍ Demonstrate how return flow will protect water quality
- ✍ Meets existing facility plan requirements including public involvement

Application – Water Supply Plan

- ✍ Delineate water supply service area
- ✍ Cost effectiveness analysis of alternatives
- ✍ Period of plan = 20 years
- ✍ Inventory of sources and quantities of area water supplies
- ✍ Existing populations/demands, future forecasts
- ✍ Must be consistent with areawide water quality management plans
- ✍ Public participation and approval from municipalities that are part of plan

Application – Process for Community in a Straddling County

- ✍ State
- ✍ Regional Body
- ✍ Compact Council
- ✍ State – Final Decision

Regional Body and Compact Council

Regional Body Members

Great Lake States

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Pennsylvania,
New York, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

Great Lake Provinces

Ontario and Quebec

Party to Good Faith Agreement.

Compact Council Members

Great Lake States

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Pennsylvania,
New York, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

Party to legally binding agreement
Enforceable in US federal court.



DNR – Office of Great Lakes
dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/

Council of Great Lakes Governors www.cglg.org

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