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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: U.S. EPA CLARIFICATION RE: WAUKEGAN HARBOR GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT PROJECT

CHICAGO (Nov. 9, 2007) — Recent coverage in the Waukegan News-Sun about EPA's role in the now defunct \$30+ million cleanup of Waukegan Harbor under the Great Lakes Legacy Act contains some factual errors and misrepresentations by local officials. These errors have been repeated in subsequent coverage.

U.S. EPA wants to set the record straight:

U.S. EPA's sole focus is an effective cleanup of contaminated sediment in Waukegan Harbor.

U.S. EPA has not and will not take a position on whether future uses of the harbor should include industrial ship traffic. That is not a matter for U.S. EPA to decide.

Statements that U.S. EPA has decided to cap the sediment are incorrect. In fact, nothing has been decided.

The City of Waukegan's proposed contribution to the now-abandoned Legacy Act cleanup was not \$12 million. Waukegan's contribution would have been \$2 million in cash, along with a \$1 million credit for the use of the City's lakefront property during the dredging project.

U.S. EPA is truly disappointed that the proposed cleanup project will not go forward. EPA's efforts to address PCB contamination in Waukegan Harbor will now transition back to EPA's Superfund program. For Fiscal Year 2008 at least, the financial resources available under Superfund will be much less than the city might have hoped for under the original Legacy Act project.

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