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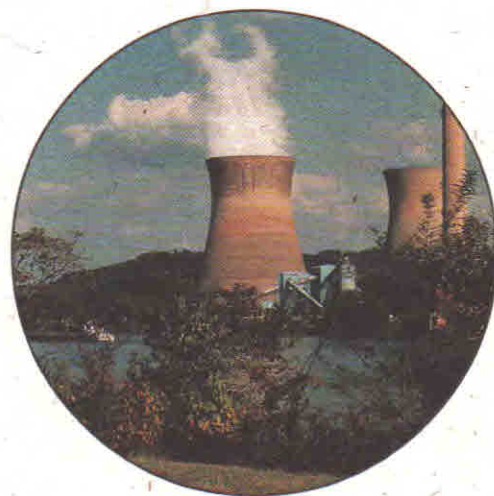
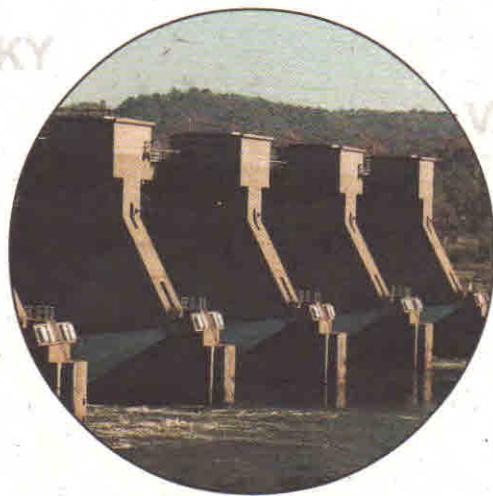
PA

NY

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1995 Annual Report

Ohio River Valley
Water Sanitation Commission

The Commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)—an interstate water pollution control commission created jointly in 1948 by the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the State of New York, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of West Virginia, with approval of the Congress of the United States—respectfully submit the following report of the Commission's activities for 1995 to:

The Honorable Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois

The Honorable Evan Bayh
Governor of Indiana

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
Governor of Kentucky

The Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor of New York

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Governor of Ohio

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge
Governor of Pennsylvania

The Honorable George Allen, Jr.
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable W. Gaston Caperton III
Governor of West Virginia

and

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States



Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
5735 Kellogg Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45228-1112
513/231-7719 or visit ORSANCO on the World Wide Web
at <http://www.orsanco.org/>

Members of the Commission*

Illinois

Richard S. Engelbrecht, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois
Mary A. Gade, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Phillip C. Morgan, Director, Danville Sanitary District

Indiana

Joseph H. Harrison, Sr., Bowers, Harrison, Kent & Miller
Kathy Prosser, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management

Kentucky

James E. Bickford, Secretary, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Cabinet
Gordon R. Garner, Executive Director, Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
Ed Logsdon, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

New York

Douglas E. Conroe, Assistant to Vice President for Operations, Chautauqua Institution
Thomas A. Erlandson, Ph.D., Professor of Biology & Geology, Jamestown Community College
Michael D. Zagata, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

Lloyd N. Clausing
Richard Miller
Donald R. Schregardus, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Pennsylvania

James M. Seif, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Melvin E. Hook, R&D Engineering, P.C.
William M. Kudaroski, Operations Manager/Production, Pennsylvania-American Water Company

Virginia

Henry O. Holliman, Jr., Ph.D., Department of Environmental Quality
W. Bidgood Wall, Jr., Department of Environmental Quality

West Virginia

Edgar N. Henry
L. Eli McCoy, Ph.D., Director, Department of Commerce, Labor, & Environmental Resources, Division of Environmental Protection
Ronald R. Potesta, President, Terradon Corporation

United States

Valdas V. Adamkus, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
Robin Corathers, Executive Director, Rivers Unlimited Mill Creek Restoration Project
Phillip J. Shepherd, Attorney

Officers:

Thomas A. Erlandson, Ph. D., Chairman
Richard Miller, Vice Chairman
William M. Kudaroski, Secretary
Richard L. Herd, Jr., Treasurer
Alan H. Vicory, Jr., Executive Director and Chief Engineer

Legal Counsel

Thomas D. Heekin, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister

* (As of December 31, 1995)

Everyone's Downstream

During the summer of 1994, while driving along the shore of Chautauqua Lake, I noticed that the car ahead of me had a bumper sticker stating, "Everyone's downstream." Although my initial response was skeptical—after all, the existence of a downstream does imply an upstream—the truth of the statement soon struck home.

I recalled hiking to the source spring of the Allegheny River earlier that year, and thinking that the ground water feeding this woodland flow originated as moisture carried on the westerly winds from the nation's heartland along the Ohio River. This grand river was formed as the waters I was watching seep from the hill joined with the Monongahela's flow 352 miles downstream at Pittsburgh.

When a watershed is combined with its airshed, everyone, even those living along the uppermost headwaters, is truly downstream.

Concern for those millions living downstream along the Ohio River and its tributaries was the salient driving force in the establishment of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) in 1948.

As Edward J. Cleary, ORSANCO's first executive director, said in his 1967 book, *The ORSANCO Story*, "Unlike many rivers which begin their journey to the sea unsullied by contact with the activities of man, the Ohio is denied an origin of pristine purity. Clustered at its source at Pittsburgh is an urban population center of 1,400,000 people as well as the most heavily industrialized zone in the valley.

Furthermore, the two tributaries that give it birth bring waters that are burdened with the waste water from upstream communities and

industries, and with the acid drainage from active and abandoned coal mines."

Now, after nearly 50 years of effort by the Commission and its members and partners, water quality in the 155,000 square miles of the Compact district are greatly improved over those observed by the farsighted authors and signers of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact.

Ongoing activities and initiatives during 1995 continued the trend begun by their actions. Since the beginning,

Commission activities have focused on improving water quality for downstream users. The result of this focus was highlighted during 1995 with the announcement that all publicly owned treatment facilities along the Ohio River now have, at a minimum, secondary treatment. This was a marker event in the Commission's history, showing that ORSANCO and state partnership in pollution abatement has indeed worked.

A new Commission program both complements and expands upon this historical emphasis in pollution abatement. The Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program is designed to identify and address in a comprehensive way specific pollutants known to impair various uses of the Ohio River.

Initial funding was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A series of informational public workshops was held during the fall, seeking public questions and suggestions. Eight priority pollutants have been selected for study, including dioxin, chlordane, atrazine, and PCBs, and program implementation is proceeding.



Periods of intense staff activity often characterize ORSANCO programs, with one example being the Cincinnati Area Wet Weather Demonstration Study begun in 1995. This study involves several components, including habitat characterization, fish and macroinvertebrate sampling, and measurement of several physical parameters during both wet and dry weather periods. Results of this study will broaden the scope of the Commission's investigation of combined sewer overflows.

Data being obtained from the Wet Weather Demonstration Study is part of an increasing effort to gain a basic understanding of the diverse dynamics of the River and its watershed. This involves research, and during 1995 the Commission adopted a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan which takes into consideration this new challenge.

The research methods commonly used for studying flowing waters were developed for smaller streams, not large waterways like the Ohio River, and the learning curve has been steep for the Commission.

These research efforts have benefited from the Biological Management Information System (BMIS), developed by funding received from the ORSANCO/Ohio River Users Program. The BMIS became operational on June 30, storing and providing biological data to anyone with computer access. ORSANCO's Internet connections

will facilitate communication, and researchers are encouraged to deposit data in this system.

Grateful appreciation is extended to all volunteers who serve on ORSANCO committees. The work done by their members is essential to the success of Commission activities. The year 1995 saw the establishment of a new Water Quality Review Committee to help implement technical initiatives and programs that are under way. This committee has identified a set of issues to address, including reviewing ORSANCO's role in spill notification and response, following hydropower development, and providing guidance relating to quality control and assurance matters.

The Commission's Public Interest Advisory Committee has been working diligently this year to bring recognition to the Ohio River Valley's vast resources, and to ORSANCO as a steward of these treasures. While these are examples, all committees comprising the Commission's "family" have put their mark on 1995, contributing to the achievement of better water quality in the Ohio River Valley.

Finally, with ORSANCO's 50th anniversary approaching, an ad hoc committee has begun planning events to celebrate this milestone in the Commission's history—one rich with the understanding that a cleaner Ohio River Valley has positive affects on everyone downstream.

Thomas A. Elandson

The young Allegheny River east of Coudersport, PA travels 352 miles where it joins the Monongahela River to form the Ohio River.

