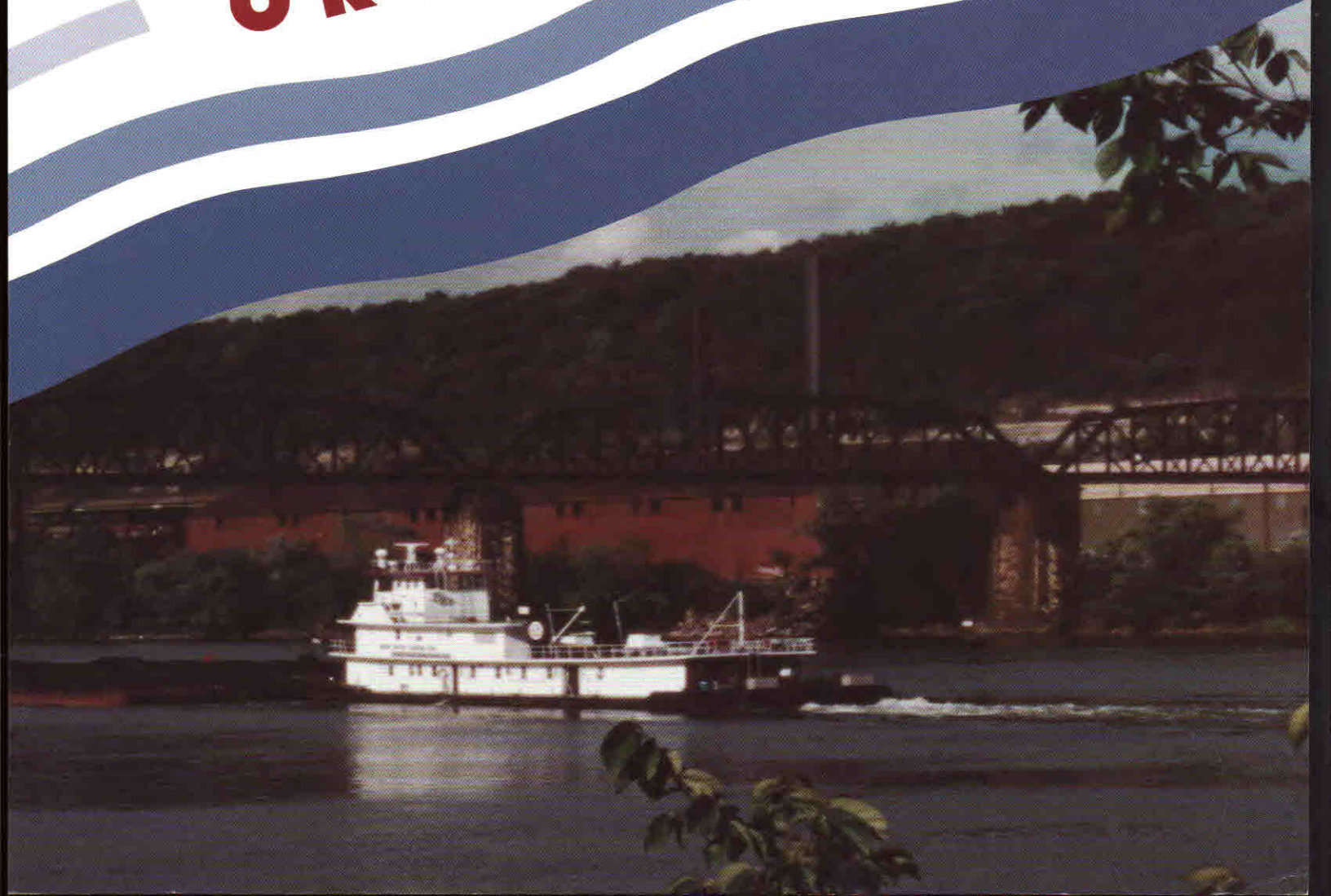


ORSANCO

Annual Report '97



The Commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)—an interstate water pollution control agency 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 1997 to:

The Honorable Jim Edgar

Governor of Illinois

The Honorable Frank L. O'Bannon

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 James S. Gilmore III

Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Cecil H. Underwood

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 www.orsanco.org

Cover Photograph by Anita Luellen of Shadyside, Ohio

*Members of the Commission **

Illinois

Mary A. Gade, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Constance Humphrey, Director of Inter-Government Affairs and Office Manager, The Association Group
Phillip C. Morgan, Director, Danville Sanitary District

Indiana

Joseph H. Harrison, Sr., Bowers, Harrison, Kent & Miller
Vasiliki Keramida, President & Chief Executive Officer, Keramida Environmental, Inc.
John Hamilton, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management

Kentucky

James E. Bickford, Secretary, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Cabinet
Stephen L. Henry, M.D., Lieutenant Governor
Roy W. Mundy, Vice President & Manager, Kentucky-American Water Company

New York

Douglas E. Conroe, Director of Operations, Chautauqua Institution
Thomas A. Erlandson, Ph.D., Professor of Biology & Geology, Jamestown Community College
John P. Cahill, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

Keith Harshman, Manager, Environment, Health & Safety, GE Aircraft Engines
Richard Miller
Donald R. Schregardus, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Pennsylvania

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

Virginia

Archie Bailey, State Water Control Board
Filbert Tobias, State Water Control Board

West Virginia

Paul L. Hill, Ph.D., Chemical Safety Board
John E. Caffrey, Director, Department of Commerce, Labor & Environmental Resources
Division of Environmental Protection
Ronald R. Potesta, President, Potesta and Associates

Federal

Robin Corathers, Executive Director, Rivers Unlimited Mill Creek Restoration Project
Phillip J. Shepherd, Newberry, Hargrove & Rambicure

Officers

William M. Kudaroski, Chairman
Phillip C. Morgan, Vice Chairman
Roy W. Mundy, Secretary/Treasurer
Alan H. Vicory, Jr., Executive Director and Chief Engineer

* As of December 31, 1997

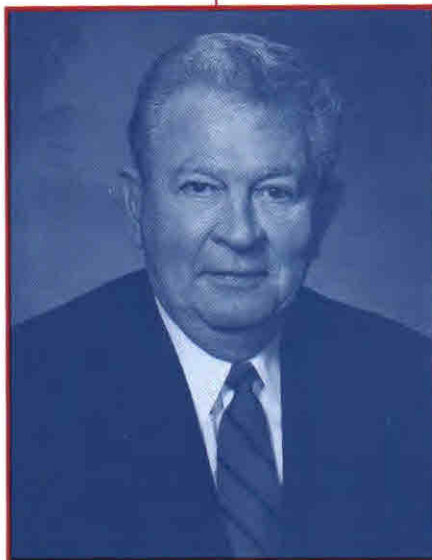
Message From the Chairman

Protecting the River's Heritage

Heritage is described as something transmitted to or acquired from a predecessor. There can be no doubt that the objective of the governors of the states signing the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact was to bequeath a River to future generations that would meet all of their expected uses. These uses would include a reliable drinking water source, water for industrial processing and cooling, a transportation mode for goods and supplies, and a dependable body of water for recreational activities.

The first step toward providing a cleaner river was to reduce or eliminate all harmful pollutants from discharges to the River. This was initiated by the adoption of ORSANCO's Pollution Control Standards for the Ohio River.

These discharge Standards have served as a guide to the Compact states in issuing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. It has been through the cooperation of the states, federal agencies, local governments, and private industry that Ohio River water quality improvements have occurred. The Standards are revised periodically, with the most recent revisions in 1997. The next step will be to locate and address nonpoint sources of pollution entering the rivers and streams in the Ohio Valley. These sources are a result of past and present land uses. Water quality in the Ohio River will continue to improve as these sources are identified and then more efficiently controlled or eliminated.



Although the Pollution Control Standards have served as the foundation for improving water quality, there are many other ongoing programs or specific projects that have contributed to the success of ORSANCO's efforts. These include the Organics Detection System for the identification of spills, the Wet Weather Demonstration Study, Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program, Fish Tissue Contaminants Program, and Bacteria Monitoring, just to name a few. Further details on these and other Commission programs are addressed later in this Annual Report.

Perhaps the most recognized Commission program continues to be the nationally-awarded River Sweep, a shoreline cleanup that encompasses the Ohio River and many of its tributaries. Due to its extreme success and community participation, the Sweep is being copied in other river basins.

Two new programs established in 1997 are the Assessment of Nutrient Loadings and Source Water Assessment and Protection. Both projects will continue into 1998 and possibly years beyond. Also, in 1997 President Clinton announced a program to designate 10 rivers in the nation as American Heritage Rivers. Staff has prepared an application on behalf of 24 Ohio River communities to have this magnificent resource named as one of these rivers. The designated rivers will be announced in 1998.

