

ORSANCO



ANNUAL REPORT 1998

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 1998 to:

The Honorable George H. Ryan
Governor of Illinois

The Honorable Frank O'Bannon
Governor of Indiana

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
Governor of Kentucky

The Honorable George Pataki
Governor of New York

The Honorable Robert Taft
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
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In memory of Leonard A. Weakley, the Commission's first legal counsel, we dedicate this 50th Anniversary edition of the Annual Report. Mr. Weakley was involved in the negotiations which led to the formation of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact and the Commission, and provided more than 50 years of commitment to the ideals and principles expressed in the Compact. Throughout his tenure as the Commission's legal counsel, he gave tirelessly of his time and expertise toward the achievement of Commission goals.

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Message from the Chairman



Chairman Phillip C. Morgan

This year as ORSANCO celebrates its 50th Anniversary, we reflect on our many accomplishments and look ahead to new challenges within the framework of not only a regional, but a global network.

More than 50 years ago, a group of citizens in the Ohio River Valley united to investigate a regional approach for water pollution problems plaguing the Ohio River Valley. After nearly 10 years of negotiations, in 1948 the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia met in Cincinnati, Ohio to sign an agreement binding these states in an interstate compact for the control and abatement of water pollution in the Valley. This compact formed the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, an agency charged to address water quality issues in the Valley. ORSANCO, with the cooperation of state agencies and the federal government, industries, municipalities, utilities, and various organizations and individuals, has made exceptional strides to improve the quality of the Valley's waterways.

Several milestones in water pollution control and abatement have been accomplished since ORSANCO's inception. One major accomplishment of the Commission has been the promotion of sewage treatment for discharges to the River. In 1948, less than one percent of municipal and industrial waste water received treatment prior to being discharged to the Ohio River. Today, all Ohio River communities have reached compliance with the Commission's Pollution Control Standards requiring not only primary treatment, but also more advanced secondary treatment for their discharges.

More recent efforts by the Commission include adoption of requirements for the control of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). During 1998, water quality studies also included those for Source Water Assessment to protect public water supplies, and Evaluations of Nutrient Loads and Sources in the Ohio River Basin to reduce stream nutrient loads in the Basin, and ultimately, in the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Wet Weather Impact Studies expanded to two additional areas—Louisville, KY and Wheeling, WV—for the assessment of point and nonpoint sources of pollution from rainfall and snow melt.

