

# OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF POLICIES

*Revised May 10, 1984*

**WHEREAS:** The eight states signatory to the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact (Compact), having taken the initiative more than three decades ago to devise an organization for regional coordination, have clearly and continuously demonstrated its usefulness in advancing mutual goals and associated activities for the abatement and prevention of water pollution; and

**WHEREAS:** The success of this experience has revealed further opportunities to enhance the usefulness of The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (Commission) as an interstate compact agency and as a creative influence in promoting the concept and practice of regional water quality management; and

**WHEREAS:** There has been a continuous review of the posture and activities of the Commission; and

**WHEREAS:** In view of changing conditions and circumstances, the Commission recognizes the need for a restatement of its policies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission subscribe to and set forth the following policies for guidance in meeting the provisions of the Compact:

1. The mission of the Commission is to take whatever action that may be within its authority and to coordinate and supplement efforts of the signatory states to place and maintain the interstate waters of the Ohio River Basin in a condition satisfactory for a source of public and industrial water supplies, suitable for recreational and agricultural usage, favorable for maintaining fish and other aquatic life, free from unsightly or malodorous nuisances due to floating solids, debris or sludge deposits, and acceptable for other beneficial uses.
2. In the pursuit of its mission, the Commission will be guided by the principle that the discharge of municipal and industrial wastewaters or from any source, including agricultural, dredging, mining, construction, recreational and transportation activities within any of the signatory states, shall not impair any of the previously defined uses of the interstate waters of the Ohio River Basin which are intended to be protected by the Compact. Toward this end, the Commission will publish stream criteria; develop, promulgate and enforce, in accordance with the provisions of the Compact, appropriate standards for the treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater and other discharges; and otherwise promote the proper planning, design, and construction, as well as the effective management and operation of pollution control facilities. Secondary treatment of wastewater and an equivalent degree of treatment of other damaging discharges are imperative if the true objectives of the Compact with respect to improved water quality are to be achieved and maintained. The minimum requirements for this level of treatment shall be consistent with the Commission's pollution control standards.
3. The Commission will take appropriate action to control the discharge of toxic substances and to prevent the creation of any new sources of water pollution within the Ohio River Basin. Water pollution is defined as an alteration of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of water to a degree as to render it harmful or detrimental to human, animal, plant or aquatic life, or as a condition which otherwise would impair any legitimate, beneficial use of the water.
4. Realization of the objectives of the interstate Compact will be accomplished primarily by applying the resources of the Commission so as to supplement the efforts of the regulatory agencies of the signatory states. The Commission will, however, when necessary, in accordance with the provisions of the Compact, initiate legal action to insure compliance with its objectives.
5. The Commission will rely upon the signatory states to provide data on the location, amounts and characteristics of wastewater discharges, together with information on the status of compliance by municipalities



and industries with standards and requirements established by the Commission. In connection with any regulatory actions, the Commission will supplement this information with its own investigations where necessary.

6. To insure maximum return from investments by public and private entities for the installation of pollution control facilities, the Commission places a high priority on the effective performance of these facilities. Accordingly, the Commission urges each signatory state to implement a facility inspection and performance evaluation program and a water quality surveillance program for receiving waters.

7. The Commission will continue to support improvement and expansion of its monitoring and data evaluation capabilities, which it regards as a major activity in meeting its responsibilities of regional coordination. The Commission will continue to make available to state and federal agencies and to individuals and organizations assessments of water quality conditions based on data acquired through its monitoring system. Within its capability and in the interests of compatibility, the Commission staff will provide advice and guidance to the signatory states and federal agencies on monitoring and surveillance techniques and strategies.

8. Recognizing with appreciation the contributions historically made by a variety of advisory committees, the Commission will continue to seek input to its activities by such groups.

9. The Commission asserts that water quality considerations are critical in planning for any beneficial use of water and in operating any water quality control facility in the Ohio River Basin. Accordingly, the Commission will communicate and participate, as appropriate, with any agency or responsible organization involved in water quality management.

10. From time to time and as resources permit, the Commission may perform specific services or undertake research and demonstration studies that the signatory states, federal agencies, or advisory committees may recommend as being important and relevant to achieving the Commission's regional goals.

11. The Commission will continue its practice of disseminating information to the public.

