

# Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

**“ORSANCO”**

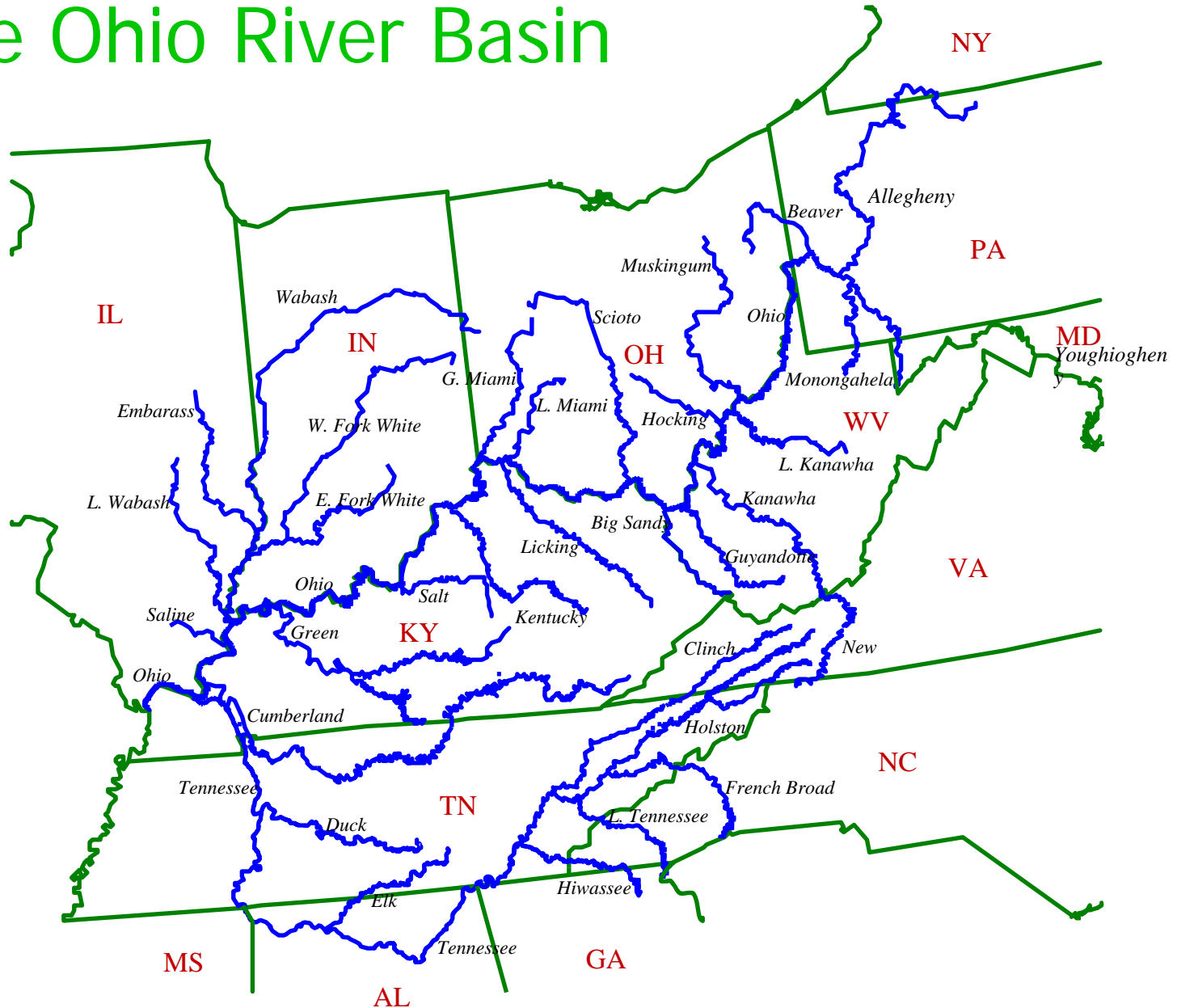
**Working to Abate Interstate  
Water Pollution for 60 Years**

ORSANCO

# ORSANCO – the Basics

- Established in 1948 by Interstate Compact.
- Independent agency, representing the 8 state members collectively.
  - Ohio River Main Stem; PA, WV, KY, OH, IN, IL
  - Off Stream; NY, VA
- Mission – Abatement of *interstate* water pollution in the 8 states' Ohio Valley drainage.
- Commission - 27 members including 3/state and 3 Federal (Appt. by Governors and President).

# The Ohio River Basin





# ORSANCO – “Lean and Mean”

- Staff of 25
- Annual “base” budget \$2.4 Million (States provide \$1.2M and annual USEPA grant \$1.2M).
- Additional income from research grants, public/private sector donations (e.g. Ohio River Sweep)

And for that the states/public get:

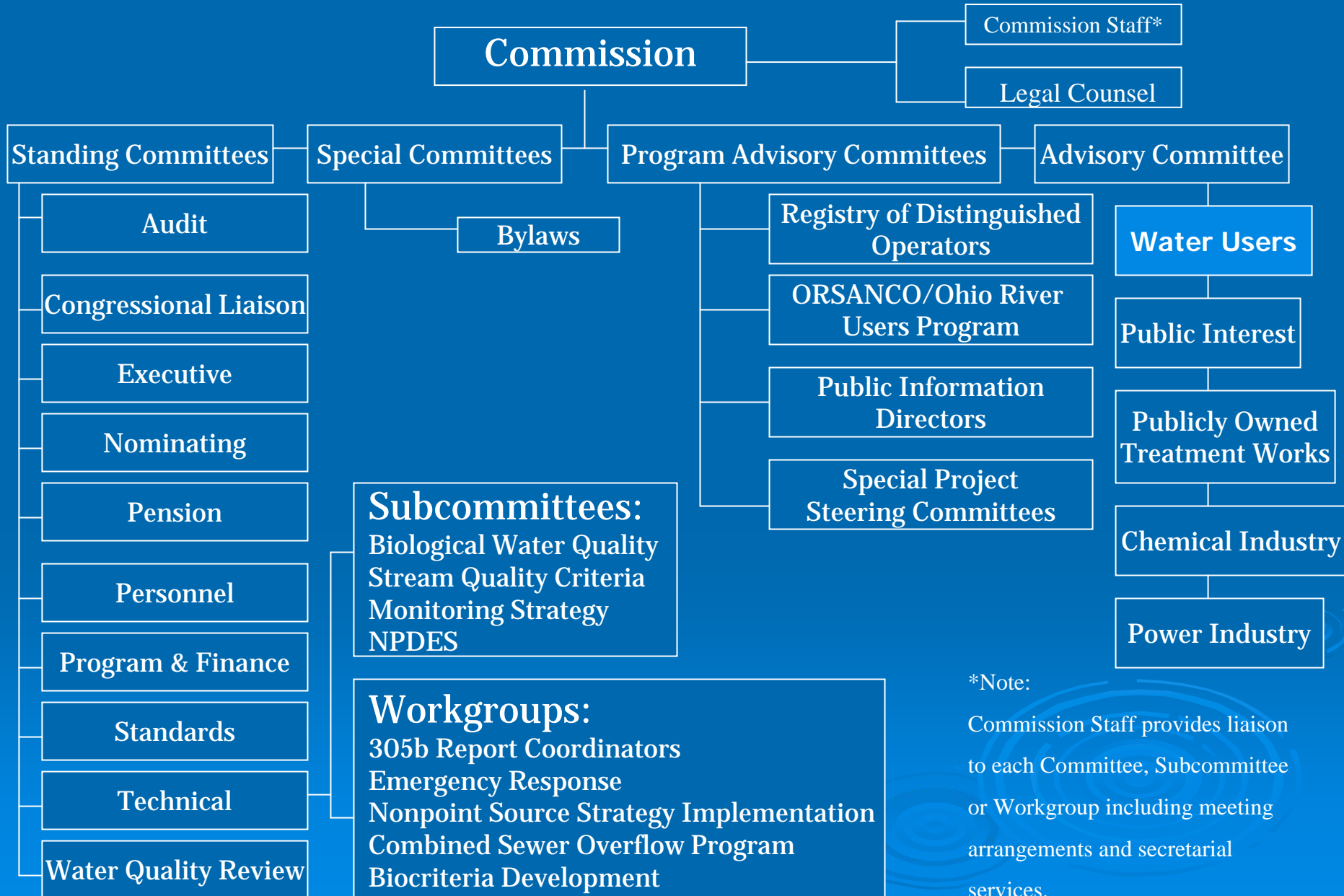
- **World class programs in water quality and biological monitoring and assessment (science and comprehensiveness).**
- **24-7 sentinel services in spill detection and response.**
- **Unified Ohio River discharge standards (state-of-the art, level playing field).**
- **Interstate coordination of federal mandated programs (Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act., etc.).**
- **Program opportunities for public stewardship and childhood education.**
- **Practical applied research (news to use).**
- **Regional representation in national issues and broader geographic based problem solving (e.g. Gulf of Mexico hypoxia abatement).**

# And we do it very cost effectively

## West Virginia 1999 “Performance Review” (Sunset) –

- WV contribution 4.8% of budget
- Annual Benefits to State – \$347,000
- Annual WV Funding - \$121,000 (3:1 return on investment)
- “.....it is easy to justify the continuation of West Virginia’s membership in the Compact.”

# ORSANCO's Structure



# The Compact

## ➤ First “Whereas”....

“Pursuant to authority of the 74<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States....duly appointed Commissioners representing the States of Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio, New York, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Tennessee have heretofore negotiated a proposed Compact...”



# The Compact

## ➤ Third “Whereas”

Notes VA did not participate in the original negotiations, but state’s legislation “has authorized and requested its Governor to execute said Compact...and bind the Commonwealth...”

# The Compact

*“Now, Therefore, The states of Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia do by covenant and agree...”*

So what happened to Tennessee?

# TN - We need you at the Table!

- Ohio River water quantity/quality *is* the tribs.
- We must craft relationships and program approaches that are indeed integrated and watershed in scope (monitoring, data systems, trading, etc.)
- Trends are regional groups are calling more so for interstate Compacts and cooperation (e.g. Big Sandy, Monongahela R.)