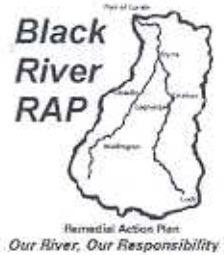




State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



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March 24, 2005

Mr. Gary Gulezian, Director  
Great Lakes National Program Office  
77 West Jackson Blvd. (G-17J)  
Chicago, IL 60604-3511

Dear Mr. Gulezian:


The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Black River Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee are pleased to submit this request for the delisting of the Degradation of Benthos Beneficial Use Impairment in the East Branch of the Black River. Improved watershed management and upgrades to wastewater treatment and collection facilities have allowed the benthic macro-invertebrate communities in the East Branch to fully recover from previous impacts to water and habitat quality.

The Black River RAP Coordinating Committee will continue to work to protect the improvements in the East Branch. As this sub-watershed is under considerable development pressure, a formal recognition of the restoration of this impairment will facilitate the implementation of protective measures at a local level. The protective measures will safeguard the improvements to the East Branch and augment the remediation efforts in the entire Black River Area of Concern.

Over the past decade, remarkable progress has been made in the rivers, streams and harbor areas of Ohio's Areas of Concern. The State of Ohio remains committed to the continued support of the Ashtabula, Black, Cuyahoga and Maumee Remedial Action Plan organizations and to the restoration and protection efforts in all watersheds throughout Ohio.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph P. Koncelik  
Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

  
Kenneth G. Pearce  
Chairman  
Black River RAP Coordinating Committee

Bob Taft, Governor  
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant Governor  
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director