



Québec, September 27, 2006

Mr. Lee Boushon P.E.
Chief, Public Water Supply Section
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of Premier Charest, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment the application for a water diversion made by the City of New Berlin, Wisconsin.

I understand that you are sending this request for comments because this application is the first to be submitted since the signing on December 13th 2005 of the *Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement* in a spirit of collaboration. The Annex implementing Agreement is not in force, but even if it was, this project, involving a diversion under 5 million gallons per day average over any 90-day period, would not be subject to regional review under the Agreement, except as provided for in article 502.

Under the terms of the Great Lakes Charter currently applicable, this diversion project would not be subject to prior notice and consultation since it would not exceed 5 million gallons per day average in any 30-day period.

In the spirit of collaboration in which your request was made, our comments are designed to contribute somewhat to the project's assessment and improve on our mutual understanding of the Agreement.

We can appreciate New Berlin's need to find a sustainable solution to its current water supply problem and find the rationale for the application to be adequate. If the Agreement would have been in force, the terms of section 201 paragraph 1, as well as the Exception Standard would have to be met to the satisfaction of your jurisdiction. In this matter, we can offer the comment that, in our perspective, the information presented in the application concerning impact assessment is not sufficiently detailed to allow a proper evaluation and that Water Conservation and Efficiency efforts could be greater.

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However, let me reiterate that, indeed, your jurisdiction has no obligation to submit this application to review, and that we offer our comments in a spirit of comity.

Respectfully yours,

Louise Lapierre

Louise Lapierre
Premier Jean Charest designate,
Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Water Resources Regional Body