WHEREAS, on December 13, 2005, the Governors of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (“Agreement”); and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 7 of the Agreement came into force on December 13, 2005, pursuant to Article 709 paragraph 1j of the Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 709, Paragraph 2j of the Agreement, Chapter 5 of the Agreement will come into force “60 days after the last Party [State or Province] has notified the others that it has completed the Measures necessary to implement” specific provisions of the Agreement as described in Article 709, Paragraph 2 of the Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Parties to the Agreement have neither completed all the Measures as described in Article 709, Paragraph 2, nor have they notified the other Parties that they have completed such Measures; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) became effective on December 8, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Compact requires Regional Review to be performed from time to time to properly implement the terms of the Compact; and,

WHEREAS, Article 705 of the Agreement states that “Each Party shall, from the date of execution of this Agreement, exercise its best efforts to refrain from taking any action that would defeat the objectives of this Agreement;” and,

WHEREAS, the inability to engage in Regional Review would hinder the ability of the States to implement the Compact, which would in turn defeat the objectives of the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Regional Body declare that Chapter 5 of the Agreement shall come into force immediately as of December 8, 2008, with regard to any requirements for Regional Review that may arise in respect of proposals from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as they implement the Compact.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Article 709 of the Agreement, the terms, agreements and review processes contained in the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 (Charter) shall remain in full force and effect, except for those instances where Regional Review may take place in respect of diversion proposals from the States as they implement the Compact. In such instances, Regional Review shall replace prior notice and consultation requirements and activities in the Charter. The Regional Body shall be used for all prior notice and consultation activities under the Charter where they continue to apply.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Chapter 5 of the Agreement shall come into force with regard to any requirements for Regional Review that may arise in respect of proposals from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec once each province has notified the other Parties that they have completed the measures needed to implement the prohibition of diversions and the management and regulation of exceptions. Once notice has been provided, Regional Review shall replace prior notice and consultation requirements under the Charter for diversion proposals in that Province.

*Adopted by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body on December 8, 2008.*