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## News Release

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### **'No Contact' Advisory Lifted for Part of the Ottawa River in Toledo**

The "no contact" advisory for the Ottawa River above river mile 8.6 has been removed by order of Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo, M.D.

The advisory had been in place since April 1991, as part of ODH's efforts to protect public health. The no contact advisory remains in place for the lower 8.6 miles of the river, from the eastern Interstate 475 bridge to Lake Erie. However, the "do not eat" fish consumption advisory continues for the entire section of river up to river mile 17, north of Wildwood Preserve where I-475 again crosses the river.

The no contact advisory was put in place after sampling conducted in 1986 and 1990 by Ohio EPA found high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish and sediment in the lower eight miles of the river, especially in an unnamed tributary at river mile 5.9 near the Dura Avenue and Stickney Road landfills and in the river from miles 5.5-5.6. Industrial sites and the landfills downstream of the eastern I-475 bridge have been identified as the sources of the PCBs.

Ohio EPA staff will conduct extensive monitoring in the river this year. This includes sampling of sediment and fish tissue related to the advisories and sampling of river conditions related to four stream restoration projects funded by Ohio EPA. Three of these restoration projects will be getting underway this year and one was recently completed.

Ohio EPA also will conduct a thorough water quality study of a portion of Tenmile Creek, Ottawa River mainstem and other tributaries this year as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. TMDLs examine sediment and water chemistry, fish and macroinvertebrate populations and habitat to determine the overall health of a watershed and identify impaired areas. Ohio EPA works closely with local communities throughout the TMDL process.