

Canada/USA Target Chemical Reductions, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants, OSHA Finds Continued Exposure to Hazards by Ohio Facility, and Floating Green Power.

### **Canada and the USA Target Reductions in Chemicals to Reduce Public Health Risk**

WASHINGTON D.C. (May 31, 2016) – U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Canada’s Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna today announced that Canada and the U.S. have agreed to target reductions of eight chemicals.



The two countries agreed to target a new list of Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) to protect public health and the environment in the Great Lakes region under Annex 3 of the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Following an extensive, collaborative and transparent process, the following chemicals were designated as the first Chemicals of Mutual Concern under the new Agreement:

- Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD);
- Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs);
- Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA);
- Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS);
- Long-Chain Perfluorocarboxylic Acids (LC-PFCAs);
- Mercury;
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs); and
- Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs).

#### More Information:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/canada-and-united-states-target-reductions-chemicals-new-binational-list-reduce-public>

### **U.S. EPA Highlights Seven Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Totaling Over \$3.3 Million for Northern Ohio**

TOLEDO, OH (May 4, 2016) – U.S. EPA Senior Advisor Cameron Davis and U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur today highlighted seven Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants for projects in northern Ohio totaling more than \$3.3 million at an event at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge near Toledo. These are among 28 GLRI grants that were announced today totaling over \$12.5 million.

"With support from a strong alliance of bipartisan senators, representatives, states, tribes, municipalities, conservation organizations and businesses, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will keep making strong investments to resuscitate the Lakes," said Davis.

"We've seen the impact that threats to Lake Erie have on our economy, water supply, and wildlife. That's why I've continued to fight for full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – one of our most effective tools to protect the water quality of the Great Lakes," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown said. "Today's

announcement is great news for Ohio, and the EPA's federal investment will help support the proactive role local stakeholders have taken in protecting our lake."

More Information:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-highlights-seven-great-lakes-restoration-initiative-grants-totaling-over-33>

### **OSHA Finds Continued Exposure to Hazards by Ohio Facility**

Lima, OH (June 15, 2016) – For the third time in 10 years, federal safety and health inspectors found employees at a Lima custom sign manufacturing company exposed to respiratory, chemical and paint hazards.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Sign Source USA Inc. for seven repeated and two serious health violations on June 14, 2016, after the agency's December 2015 follow-up inspection. Proposed penalties total \$46,970. The agency cited the company for similar violations at the Lima facility in both 2006 and 2012.



"A company repeatedly cited for the same hazard isn't taking the safety and health of its employees seriously," said Kim Nelson, OSHA's area director in Toledo. "Sign Source USA needs to make permanent improvements to its health programs to protect workers from known hazards in their facility."

OSHA found:

- Rags contaminated with flammable liquids were not removed from work areas daily.
- Violations of respiratory protection hazards including failing to provide medical evaluations, fit-testing and training to employees in respiratory use.
- Workers were not trained about certain hazardous chemicals in use in the facility.
- Containers of flammable paint thinner were not labeled.

More Information:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=32643](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=32643)

### **New Solar Plants Generate Floating Green Power**

New-York, NY (May 20, 2016) – Floating solar arrays are becoming more popular, with installations already operating in Australia and the United States, and more planned or under construction.



The floating arrays have many assets. They help keep water from evaporating, making the technology attractive in drought-plagued areas, and restrict algae blooms. And they are more efficient than land-based panels, because water cools the panels. The panels are specially coated to prevent corrosion, and set on a tracking system that moves them to maximize sunlight during the course of a day.



The first section of a floating solar plant in Jamestown, Australia, will eventually cover five water treatment basins. The installation, which went into operation last year, is constructed so that it generates up to 57 percent more energy than a rooftop solar plant.

More Information:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/24/science/solar-power-floating-on-water.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fearth&action=click&contentCollection=earth&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=sectionfront](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/24/science/solar-power-floating-on-water.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fearth&action=click&contentCollection=earth&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=sectionfront)