

For Immediate Release
February, 2013

Toledo Harbor Sediment Management and Use Plan Now Available

SANDUSKY, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC), in cooperation with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) and the Toledo Harbor Dredge Task Force, received a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to evaluate alternatives to open-lake placement of dredged sediments, and to provide recommendations for sediment management and use options.

The resulting Toledo Harbor Sediment Management and Use Plan (THSMUP) has been released by OLEC, in collaboration with the TLCPA, for viewing online at www.lakeerie.ohio.gov.

This consensus-based plan addresses the concerns of diverse stakeholders represented by the Task Force to evaluate a combination of options for management and use of dredged sediments. The THSMUP includes information to address both interim and long-term sustainable approaches, as well as identification of funding needs and timelines for implementation of recommended options.

The beneficial use of dredged material for agricultural field improvements was one of the sustainable options identified for further study. Additional information about this alternate beneficial use option is provided within the THSMUP.

OLEC was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Gail Hesse, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
419-621-2040

Jason Fallon, ODNR Office of Communications
614-265-6860