OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 8 – NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO CONTROL NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION IN ORDER TO REDUCE SEDIMENT, NUTRIENTS AND OTHER POLLUTANTS AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF LAKE ERIE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, THUS REDUCING DAMAGE TO AQUATIC HABITATS AND LOWERING COSTS OF WATER TREATMENT AND CHANNEL DREDGING, BY USING A BROAD ARRAY OF STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO REGULATE AND MANAGE THE CONTRIBUTING SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES.

Authorities and Administration

The State of Ohio manages and regulates activities that contribute to nonpoint source pollution through a complex but coordinated array of institutional mechanisms and authorities. A complete analysis of these mechanisms and authorities and how they operate to achieve stated goals and comply with federal regulations is contained in the Ohio Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Eight major sources of nonpoint source contaminants are addressed by this program, and the roles and responsibilities of all agencies and organizations involved with implementation are described therein.

The State of Ohio developed the Nonpoint Source Management Program document pursuant to Section 319 of the CWA. The program was developed in 1988 and updated in 1992 and 1999 by ODNR under an agreement with Ohio EPA. (The 1993 update was never approved by U.S. EPA.) A 1999 program upgrade was developed and approved by U.S. EPA to enable Ohio to receive supplemental 319 funding. The program specifies Best Management Practices for the eight major sources of nonpoint pollutants: agriculture, hydromodification/habitat modification, land disposal, mining, oil field wastes, silviculture, urban runoff and construction site erosion and a section addressing specific ground water issues. Section 319 funds are allocated based on the program's recommendations and policies. Funds have been used to initiate local watershed treatment and aquatic restoration and protection projects. Promoting public awareness about nonpoint pollution issues has been identified as critical to the future success of pollution control projects and programs and is therefore a major program goal. State funds have been appropriated to ODNR and Ohio State University Extension to help implement local nonpoint projects.

The State of Ohio developed the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) Plan and submitted it in September 2000 to NOAA and U.S. EPA for their review. The CNPCP is based upon and expands the existing statewide Ohio Nonpoint Source Management Program and will be integrated as part of the existing Ohio Coastal Management Program. Section 6217 of CZARA directs states to develop Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs to be implemented through changes to the state coastal management plan and the state nonpoint source management plan. REALM held several initial meetings in 1993 to begin coordinating program development and implementation through cooperation with a Division of Surface Water (Ohio EPA) Σ Division of Soil and Water Conservation (ODNR) team. However, the OCMP has decided to focus its primary efforts on core program development. Changes to CZARA are anticipated to allow additional time

for states now developing core coastal management programs to develop their coastal nonpoint source pollution programs. Pending this change, the OCMP intends to initiate development of the coastal nonpoint program following federal approval of the OCMP core program. Key aspects of the program are the development of additional enforceable authorities, where needed, and provision for public involvement and education in all phases of the program. Details of this program and a narrative discussing Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Program are provided in Appendix J.

Ohio has received conditional approval of the Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, administered by ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation on June 04, 2002. This conditional approval included conditions that need to be met within one year and conditions that need to be met within 2 years. The one year conditions on enforceable policies and mechanisms of the Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Plan were met by submitting a Legal Opinion to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in letter form on June 04, 2003. The “two year” conditions require that Ohio have in place programs and policies that will result in implementation of specific coastal nonpoint program management measures.