

# Detroit Wastewater Plant & Lake Erie



## *A significant Source of Phosphorous to Lake Erie suffering from Phosphorous overloads*

The Detroit wastewater plant is the largest single sewage plant in the USA serving over 3 million people in 76 communities. The plant is located on the southeast side of Detroit where the sewage wastewater discharges near the outfalls of the Detroit and Rouge Rivers into Lake Erie.

Since 2009 the Detroit wastewater plant has been dumping thousands of tons of sewage sludge into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers because of equipment failures in the plant.

In addition a record 45 billion gallons of overflows with about 3 to 5 billion gallons of raw sewage flowed into Lake Erie. is at the southern end of the Detroit River where it enters into Lake Erie.

In the 1970's The Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant was the single largest point source contributor of phosphorus to Lake Erie. The same is probably true today with between a report 609 to 1275 tons of phosphorous going into Lake Erie.

### Lake Erie Phosphorous Load Inputs 2005

Western Lake Erie Basin	Total Phosphorous	Total Phosphorous	Soluble Reactive Phosphorous	Soluble Reactive Phosphorous	Total Suspended Solids	Total Suspended Solids	Flow
2005 Data and Flow	Metric Tons	%	Metric Tons	%	Metric Tons	%	Cubic Feet/Sec
Detroit	2,965	43.0%	884	52.1%	277,585	15.9%	180,000
Huron	25	0.4%	12	0.7%	6,485	0.4%	447
Stony & Swan	23	0.3%	6	0.3%	10,004	0.6%	
Raisin	124	1.8%	39	2.3%	44,271	2.5%	652
Ottawa & Portage	95	1.4%	30	1.8%	14,963	0.9%	
Maumee	3,565	51.7%	706	41.6%	1,358,534	78.0%	6,718
Atmospheric	<u>100</u>	<u>1.4%</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1.2%</u>	<u>28,867</u>	<u>1.7%</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,897.58</b>		<b>1,696.09</b>		<b>1,740,707.71</b>		

Data from Dr. David Baker, Heidelberg University, Load data from Limnotech, Joe DePinto and Dave Dolan

### **DETROIT WASTEWATER PLANT 2011 SEWAGE SLUDGE AND OVERFLOWS TO LAKE ERIE**



Detroit Wastewater Plant Regularly Dumps Sewage sludge into the Detroit & Rouge Rivers

**August 9, 2011 Outfall of Detroit Wastewater into Rouge River/Lake Erie**

**Sampling taken to University of Michigan revealed 1.75 tons of sewage sludge per 1 million gallons of water According to records from MDEQ, dumping sewage sludge into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers regularly occurred from 2009 through the end of 2011.**

**From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 an estimated 16,443 tons of sewage sludge went into the Detroit River and 5,409 tons went into the Rouge River.**

**Judge Cox Denies Request to End Federal Oversight of DWSD, Orders Plan for Fundamental Changes within 60 Days ....** Detroit Free Press August 2011 U. S. District Judge Sean Cox denied without prejudice a motion filed by the City of Detroit in late July to dismiss the 34 year old federal lawsuit by the U.S. EPA. Instead, Judge Cox has ordered that within 60 days, ..designated parties to the case meet and devise a plan to address the root causes of DWSD's chronic non-compliance with the Clean Water Act. The parties are to submit their plan to Judge Cox at a Status Conference on November 4, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. Earlier the City of Detroit petitioned Judge Sean Cox in July to dismiss the 1977 federal lawsuit . Suit decades old.

