



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Issues Statement on Long Awaited CDC Report Detailing Effects of Great Lakes Pollution on Public Health

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today issued the following statement in response to the release of a long awaited Center for Disease Control (CDC) draft report which suggests that pollution in the Great Lakes may have health consequences for area residents. The draft report found that two Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) in Rep. Slaughter's Congressional district, Eighteen Mile Creek and Rochester Embayment, pose public health hazards.

“I am deeply alarmed by connections that may exist between chemical pollutants in the Great Lakes and the elevated rates of infant mortality and certain types of cancer in the surrounding areas,” said Rep. Slaughter. **“It is imperative that we conduct more vigorous research and data collection so we can fully understand the effects of chemical exposure and move rapidly to safeguard public health.”**

The draft report has been several years in the making. Recently, questions have been raised as to whether concerns over the study’s methodology or Bush Administration attempts at suppression slowed the release of the report. The report stresses the need for more data before firm conclusions can be drawn.

□ **“I am relieved that this report is finally available to the scientific community and to the public,”** said Rep. Slaughter. **“The only way we will ever be able to fix any problems we have with the safety of the Great Lakes is if we know what those problems are.”**

The text of the draft report can be found on the website of the CDC’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/grtlakes/2008.html> .

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