

## **Ohio Leaders Support Ohio EPA's Approval of Cleveland Harbor Dredging**

*Utilizing Confined Disposal Facilities Will Keep Economy and Essential Shipping Traffic Moving*

### **U.S. Senator Rob Portman**

I'm pleased Ohio EPA has issued a certification for dredging of the Cleveland Harbor and the Cuyahoga River that provides ample environmental and health protections for Lake Erie and the City of Cleveland. I'll continue to work with the agency and local stakeholders to ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commences dredging in a timely manner."

### **State Senator Randy Gardner**

I am pleased to see that Ohio EPA has rejected the option of Open Lake Disposal for the Cleveland Harbor while providing a path forward for dredging to continue. This decision was based on sound environmental and economic reasons and I hope that the Army Corps of Engineers takes this opportunity to dredge the channel and dispose of it in an approved Confined Disposal Facility. With 1.4 million people relying on Lake Erie for their drinking water we must do all we can to protect the lake and its multi-billion dollar tourism industry. I look forward to continuing to work with the agency to develop ways to more safely dispose of this material.

### **Eric Hauge, Vice President & General Manager, ArcelorMittal Cleveland**

Today's Ohio EPA (OEPA) decision on open lake dredge sediment disposal shows that after careful analysis, these responsible agencies – the OEPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Buffalo District – have reached significantly different conclusions. With the OEPA's current doubts about the safety of open lake disposal, the only sound option at this time is placement of dredge sediment in existing confined disposal facilities (CDF) which have been used safely for years.

The need to dredge the Cuyahoga River federal navigation channel becomes more acute each day. Channel depths are already significantly shallower (five to six feet) than the authorized 23 feet, making delivery of essential raw materials difficult. Light loading of ore boats to compensate for the current shallow channel depths is already necessary. Spring rains and the sediment they wash into the channel will make this situation worse. It is essential that the USACE expedite the steps needed to begin dredging in May, using the CDFs for all sediment disposal.

### **Nathan Johnson, Attorney at the Ohio Environmental Council**

Thankfully the Ohio EPA and the Kasich administration are taking their duty to protect the health of Ohio's Great Lake and neighboring communities very seriously.

### **John Stark, Freshwater Director for The Nature Conservancy's Ohio program**

The Conservancy shares the Ohio EPA's concerns that open-lake disposal would potentially result in an increase in PCB bio-accumulation in the Lake Erie food web, endangering the state's prolific fisheries, wildlife and bird habitats, and public health.