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**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5 AT GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE**

Commission expected to hear about wind power development in the Lake Erie basin and efforts to regulate ballast water discharge

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5, at the Lodge at Geneva State Park, 4888 N. Broadway, Geneva-On-The-Lake.

OLEC Commission Chair Sean Logan, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, will provide a report on the ballast water issue affecting the Great Lakes. While ODNR'S Vicki Deisner, chairman of the OLEC executive committee, is scheduled to report on wind power generation in the Lake Erie basin and her involvement with the Ohio Wind Working Group.

Winners of the 2007 "Life On Lake Erie" photo contest will be announced. Commission members are expected to vote on the 2007 Ohio Lake Erie Award nominations and the latest round of OLEC small grants. OLEC Executive Director Edwin Hammett will announce the kickoff of the 2007 *Coastweeks* observance and report on ongoing projects of the commission, including the Balanced Growth Program and sale of Lake Erie license plates.

All meetings of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission are open to the public and include a public comment period. Organizations and citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting and provide input on issues of concern.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is comprised of the directors of the ODNR and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the state departments of Transportation, Development, Health and Agriculture. It 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 commission also oversees the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is the source of grant money for projects that benefit the Lake Erie watershed economically and environmentally. This fund is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.

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