

STATE OF NEW JERSEY



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
INTERSTATE SANITATION COMMISSION  
FOR THE YEAR 1937

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TO THE LEGISLATURE

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# Interstate Sanitation Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### NEW JERSEY

WILLIAM C. COPE  
J. LESTER EISNER  
JOSEPH N. FOWLER  
J. SPENCER SMITH  
GEORGE C. WARREN, JR.

J. RAYMOND TIFFANY,  
*General Counsel*

SETH G. HESS,  
*Chief Eng.—Exec. Secy.*

### NEW YORK

JOSEPH P. DAY, *Chairman*  
EDWARD S. GODFREY JR.  
WILLIAM F. HOFMANN  
J. NOEL MACY  
JEREMIAH D. MAGUIRE

THOMAS K. SMITH,  
*Associate Counsel*

SANFORD E. STANTON,  
*Asst. Secy.*

# Letter of Transmittal

January 5th, 1938

TO THE GOVERNORS AND LEGISLATURES OF THE  
STATES OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK.

Gentlemen:

The Interstate Sanitation Commission has the honor to submit herewith, the annual report of its activities and accomplishments during the year 1937.

This report sets forth not only the accomplishments and progress made during the past year, but also a statement of the existing conditions of pollution in the district that will furnish a base from which to measure the progress of abatement of pollution in the years to follow.

The Commissioners desire to express their appreciation of the very deep interest in the Commission's work evidenced by the cooperation of many persons and agencies. It would not be feasible to list each of those who have so generously and industriously cooperated with the work of the Commission, but we have endeavored to enumerate some of the individuals and agencies who have rendered assistance to the work of the Commission, not for thanks, but rather for the purpose of indicating the breadth of interests that have joined with the Commission in its endeavors to abate pollution.

We desire to express our thanks and appreciation to all of those who have assisted in this work, whether or not they are mentioned herein.

The work of the Commission has covered such a broad field that in order to fully convey its activities to the Governors, Legislatures and the people of the two states it becomes necessary to go into these subjects somewhat in detail, as will appear by the annexed report.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH P. DAY,  
*Chairman*

J. LESTER EISNER,  
*Vice Chairman*

JEREMIAH D. MAGUIRE,  
*Acting Chairman*



## Summary

Within the past year the Commission has established permanent offices to provide adequate and satisfactory working space for administrative engineering and laboratory personnel.

The nucleus of a technical staff has been engaged.

The Commissioners personally made detailed inspections of the more grossly polluted areas of the District.

Hearings required under the provisions of the Compact have been held throughout the entire District.

Classification has been designated for the entire water area of the District except the Central Metropolitan Section.

The first steps have been taken to require the abatement of pollution by certain municipalities now violating the Compact.

Public Opinion favorable to the objectives of the Commission is being rapidly formed.

Technical data has been accumulated.

Plans for financing abatement of pollution have been studied with bonding authorities.

There will be found within the body of this report a statement which attempts to visualize the magnitude of the pollution in the Interstate Sanitation District and the vast program that must be accomplished before pollution is abated. The report indicates that the amount of pollution entering the District is so great that if it had to be pumped, it would require 1,100 fire engines operating continuously twenty-four hours a day. Spaced at 50 foot intervals, they would occupy the Hudson River shore of Manhattan Island from the Battery to Grant's Tomb. Preliminary investigation discloses that 86% of the municipalities within the District are violating the Compact requirements.

The magnitude of the pollution and the number of municipalities violating the Compact make it obvious that the problem of abatement will require time, energy and money. The expenditures will be justified by the results.

## A Partial List of Cooperating Individuals and Agencies

### The Engineering Advisory Committee:

J. L. Barron  
M. D. Bidwell  
Louis P. Booz  
Rodney E. Cook  
William R. Copeland  
Harry P. Croft  
Earle Devendorf  
Richard H. Gould  
Charles A. Holmquist  
Harold M. Lewis  
Arthur P. Miller  
Sol Pincus  
Edward S. Rankin  
Warren J. Scott  
Frederick C. Sutro  
Sanford H. Wadhams  
William A. Welch

Borough Engineers

Borough Presidents

Bureau of Marine Fisheries, N. Y. State Conservation Dept.

Engineers of Board of Estimate and Apportionment, New York City.

Joint Meeting of Union and Essex Counties.

Mayor's Committee on City Planning.

National Resources Committee.

New Jersey State Board of Commerce and Navigation.

New York City Board of Water Supply.

New York City Departments of Health, Parks and Sanitation.

Officers and Engineers of Municipalities in the Interstate Sanitation District.

Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

Rahway Valley Joint Meeting.

Regional Plan Association.

State Departments of Health.

Station W. B. B. C., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Supervisor of New York Harbor.

The Port of New York Authority.

Twenty-seventh Division, Aviation, New York National Guard.

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

U. S. Engineer's Office.

U. S. Public Health Service.

Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk County Sanitary Engineers.

Works Progress Administrator and Staff.

## Section I—Summary of Activities

Early in 1937, the Commission considered the first step required under the Compact, looking toward the abatement of pollution within the Interstate Sanitation District. Each phase in connection with the holding of Public Hearings as required by the Compact was carefully studied, pro-

cedure established, locations selected for the various Hearings and the area to be considered at each Hearing was fixed. The Public Hearings by this Commission, together with a brief statement of the area considered at each Hearing, follows:

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Area</i>
March 30th	Bayonne, N. J.	Kill van Kull from Bergen Point Light to a line between Can Buoy No. 3 off Constable Point and Can Buoy No. 1 off New Brighton, Staten Island.
March 31st	West New Brighton, S. I.	Same as Hearing on March 30th.
April 21st	Elizabeth, N. J.	Southern portion of Newark Bay beginning at Bergen Point Light and of Arthur Kill to Outerbridge Crossing.
April 28th	Perth Amboy, N. J.	Arthur Kill, south of Outerbridge Crossing and Raritan Bay from Arthur Kill to the Middlesex-Monmouth County line west of Keyport New Jersey.
May 19th	New York, N. Y.	Water areas surrounding Borough of Manhattan and those abutting Bronx from Bronx-Westchester County line on Hudson River to Hunts Point.
May 25th	Newark, N. J.	Newark Bay.
June 9th	White Plains, N. Y.	Water areas abutting Westchester County except those abutting City of Yonkers.
June 23rd	Long Island City, N. Y.	Water areas abutting Bronx east of Hunts Point on Long Island Sound and those abutting Queens east of Sanford Point on Long Island Sound.
July 8th	Yonkers, N. Y.	Hudson River abutting Yonkers, N. Y.
July 14th	Mineola, Long Island	Southern shores of Nassau and Suffolk Counties from New York City to Fire Island Inlet.
July 21st	Keansburg, N. J.	Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays from Sandy Hook to Middlesex-Monmouth County line west of Keyport, N. J.
July 28th	Huntington, L. I.	Water areas of Long Island Sound abutting Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
August 10th	Nyack, N. Y.	West shore of Hudson River above the southerly boundary line of Palisades Interstate Park at Fort Lee, N. J.
August 18th	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Lower New York Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and tidal estuaries abutting the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens south of the Narrows to Arthur Kill.



<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Area</i>
September 8th	Queens, N. Y.	Water area adjacent to the shores of Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens from Sanford Point in the Borough of Queens to the Narrows.
September 15th	Jersey City, N. J.	Water areas adjacent to the west shore of the Hudson River and Upper New York Bay from the southerly line of Palisades Interstate Park to a line between Can Buoy No. 3 off Constable Point and Can Buoy No. 1 off New Brighton, S. I., thence to the Narrows.

#### ENGINEERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Engineering Advisory Committee composed of engineers familiar with sanitary conditions in the Interstate Sanitation District rendered to the Commission its opinion of the predominant use of the water areas.

Their opinion was that Class "A" water prevailed except in the central portion of the District, circumscribed by the Narrows; Outerbridge Crossing over Arthur Kill; the

southerly end of Palisades Interstate Park on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River and the northerly city-line of Yonkers in New York; a line from Hunt to Sanford Point on the East River at Rikers Island.

#### NOTICES OF HEARING

Notices of each Hearing were mailed to State, County and Municipal officials, to Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations and to those interested in the larger shore front properties.

#### NUMBER OF NOTICES OF HEARINGS MAILED

<i>Place of Hearing</i>	<i>Date of Hearing</i>	<i>Number of Notices Mailed</i>
Bayonne, N. J.	March 30th	210
West New Brighton, S. I.	March 31st	175
Elizabeth, N. J.	April 21st	100
Perth Amboy, N. J.	April 28th	190
New York, N. Y.	May 19th	110
Newark, N. J.	May 25th	106
White Plains, N. Y.	June 9th	104
Long Island City, N. Y.	June 23rd	115
Yonkers, N. Y.	July 8th	105
Mineola, N. Y.	July 14th	118
Keansburg, N. J.	July 21st	86
Huntington, N. Y.	July 28th	147
Nyack, N. Y.	August 10th	170
Brooklyn, N. Y.	August 18th	150
Queens, N. Y.	September 8th	235
Jersey City, N. J.	September 22nd	400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,521</b>

Press releases were sent to approximately forty publishers, referring to the Notice of each Hearing, together with a short item.

The Hearings were well attended and received excellent attention from the press. This phase of public reaction will be discussed in further detail later in the report.

A detailed resume was made of the testimony offered at the Hearings. A transcript of the resume was sent to each Commissioner, to the Counsel, members of the Connecticut Tri-State Treaty Commission and other interested officials.

Each Hearing was conducted by one of the Commissioners, designated by the Acting



Chairman, to preside. Full opportunity was offered to the public to give a frank and full expression of their opinion concerning the expected predominant use of the area under consideration at the Hearing. Wherever possible, the Secretary was called upon to summarize the opinions expressed at the Hearing, and before the closing of the Hearing, a question was put to invite those who disagreed with the summary to make their differences known.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF AREA

In accord with the provisions of the Compact, the Chief Engineer submitted a report to the Commissioners summarizing his findings of the expected predominant use of the area being considered. These reports also revealed briefly the testimony offered at the Hearings, as well as a summary of the correspondence received pertinent to the classification of the area. These reports made full use of the information obtained from the "Property Use Survey" made by the Works Progress Administration Projects, sponsored by this Commission.

The Chief Engineer's reports were submitted to the Commissioners, prior to the regular meetings of the Commission so that each Commissioner might have an opportunity of studying the report prior to its formal consideration at the Commission meeting. At the Commission meeting, full discussion was invited on each classification of an area. At the present time reports have been submitted covering the entire area of the Interstate Sanitation District, except that surrounding the southern portion of Manhattan, Upper New York Bay, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill and Kill van Kull. Requests have been received from the New Jersey authorities that this Commission withhold its designation of the classification of Newark Bay, pending their study of certain field data, obtained in co-operation with the Commission's staff and the Commission sponsored W. P. A. Project.

The Commission has taken definite steps to designate the classification of Lower New York Bay and the south shore of Long

Island, as well as Long Island Sound. Plate No. 8, Chapter VII, page 38, indicates the designation of classification already made by the Commission.

#### ACTION TAKEN TOWARD ABATEMENT

The degree of pollution within the Interstate Sanitation District and the large number of offenders under the Compact are so well-known as to warrant little discussion of the degree and extent of pollution. The Commission studied carefully methods which it would adopt in taking action toward the abatement of pollution. It was deemed impracticable to attempt to take action against all offenders simultaneously, to that end the Commission has adopted the program of progressive action.

Believing it to be contrary to the intent of the Tri-State Compact to issue preemptory orders the Commission has requested by resolution the cooperation of the respective State Departments of Health in obtaining schedules from municipalities indicating when various specific steps might be expected to be accomplished to ultimately remove the violation of the terms of the Compact.

The schedules fix the time of accomplishment of—

1. The inclusion in the municipal budget of an item to provide for engineering services for the necessary designs, estimates and reports to accomplish the removal of the violation of the Tri-State Compact requirements.
2. The engagement by the municipality of engineering services.
3. Completion of engineering report upon the removal of the violation of the Tri-State Compact.
4. Submission of the necessary plans and specifications by the municipality to the State Department of Health, together with the necessary formal application for approval thereof.
5. Advertisement for bids for the construction of the treatment plant or other necessary works.
6. Letting of construction contracts.
7. Estimated date of completion of construction and removal of violation.

#### REACTION OF PUBLIC OPINION

The Commission has felt that it can be most successful in attaining the objectives of the Compact, if the public can be fully in-



formed, concerning the need for the abatement of sewage pollution and the benefits that may be derived therefrom.

The Public Hearings furnished an excellent initial contact with the press. As a general rule, they were well covered and fully reported, especially in the local papers.

The attitude of the public attending these Hearings gave full evidence of their interest in the abatement of pollution. We do not have a record of a single case of an expression or indication of antagonism toward the Commission or its purposes. Without exception, we were met with a desire to offer the fullest cooperation. In all, approximately 600 persons attended our Hearings, 175 offered testimony and 80 communications were received in connection with the various Hearings.

#### WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

The Commission has sponsored a Works Progress Administration Project for the purpose of undertaking a general physical inspection of the extent, sources and the effects of pollution on the tidal waters by sanitary, industrial and other wastes in and adjacent to the New York Metropolitan area.

The Chief Engineer of the Commission has outlined the work for the project and has given general supervision and advice. The scope of the project was divided into four major sub-divisions:

1. Property Use Survey and Location of Sources of Pollution.
2. Current Studies.
3. Sampling and Analyses.
4. Study of Economic Effects of Pollution.

The purposes and methods of the Property Use and Location of Sources of Pollution Survey has been discussed in connection with the reports on designation of classification of areas.

The Current Surveys are for the purpose of investigating the currents which would carry pollution from one part of the District to another. One comprehensive survey of this nature has already been undertaken in cooperation with the New Jersey State Department of Health to determine the effects of Newark Bay upon the Hackensack River and in particular, upon Overpeck Creek.

Considerable data are available as to the general current trends in New York Harbor. It is not the purpose of this portion of the project to repeat such work as has already been done. There are, however, numerous places where more detailed information is required concerning the effects of current upon pollution and it is our purpose to study these in detail.

Sampling and Analyses cover dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, bacterial count and a study of the character and extent of the sludge blanket on the Harbor bottom. Numerous samples were taken throughout the summer and analyzed for the determination of the percentage of dissolved oxygen in the water throughout the entire Interstate Sanitation District. Approximately 1400 of such analyses were made. These will serve as a criterion upon which to judge the effects of the sewage treatment plants which are being put into operation at the present time and those which may be expected in the future. The *dissolved oxygen* determinations serve as a very satisfactory index of the changes in the degree of pollution in the Harbor. The bacterial count has not yet been undertaken, due primarily to the lack of laboratory facilities. This work, it is hoped, will be undertaken during the coming year and will serve to confirm the work being done by other agencies, as well as to determine the compliance with the provisions of the Tri-State Compact. Determinations of *suspended solids* have been made in some particular instances for the purpose of determining the compliance with the provisions of the Tri-State Compact. This phase of the work is expected to be an active part of our laboratory procedure during the coming year. The determination



of the character and the extent of the sludge blanket on the Harbor bottom is a matter which has been considered for long periods of time, but upon which there has been little satisfactory accomplishment. During the winter months when routine sampling is not of great avail, the laboratory technicians will be employed in studying means of identifying sewage sludge that may be removed from the bottom of the Harbor. Dredging is in almost continuous operation throughout the Harbor and it is expected that little difficulty will be encountered in obtaining samples. Definite determination of whether the samples actually contain sewage sludge will be attempted. Should a satisfactory means of identifying sewage sludge be evolved, we propose to expand the program and attempt to determine the approximate extent of the sludge blanket. Should we be able to accomplish this during the next year, it would serve as a means of determining whether or not the sludge blanket is moving and if so, in what direction.

#### COOPERATION

Commissioner Day was invited to meet with the New York-New Jersey Coastal Sub-Committee of the National Resources Committee. At his direction, the Chief Engineer attended the Committee meeting, and was also invited to attend the meetings of the Hudson River Basin Sub-Committee. The Commission staff cooperated in the activities of the National Resources Committee by submitting recommendations, briefs, suggestions and attendance at the Sub-Committee Hearings.

The Commission staff made studies of the possibilities of recurrence of marine-borers in this vicinity as a result of abatement of pollution. Evidence was disclosed to indicate that marine-borers may be active even in the most highly polluted waters. It appears that a Committee is being formed to keep informed upon the intrusion of marine-borers in the New York Harbor and it is contemplated that the Commission staff will act in close cooperation with this Committee.

The New Jersey Laundryowners Association conferred with our technical staff on the treatment of laundry wastes.

#### REPRESENTATIONS

On several occasions the Commission was represented at Congressional hearings in Washington, concerning bills upon the abatement of pollution.

Representatives of the Commission or staff appeared at:

Port Jefferson Public Meeting on use of Harbor  
National Resources Basin Committee Meetings, (3)  
Long Island Section of New York State Sewage Works Association  
New Jersey Sewage Works Association  
New Jersey League of Municipalities

#### POLICY AND PROPOSED PROGRAM

In the Annual Report submitted last year, the Engineering Advisory Committee report submitted by Messrs. C. A. Holmquist and R. H. Gould, outlined four steps, which in their opinion, were required to carry out the purposes of the Compact. They were:

1. Classification of the waters
2. Determination of the Compact violations
3. Preparation of comprehensive plan for pollution abatement
4. Enforcement of provisions of Compact

The past year has seen the first step well under way and brought well-nigh to completion. The classification of the entire area has been designated, except that portion surrounding the lower or southerly part of Manhattan Island, lower New York Bay, Kill von Kull and Newark Bay. This is substantially a single area, which will be considered as a unit.

Following the designation, the Commission has undertaken the determination of Compact violations. This work is now under way and four violators have been reported upon. Work upon this phase of



the program will be continued throughout the coming year.

Concerning the preparation of the comprehensive plan for pollution abatement, we find that the greatest, if not the only inhibiting factor, is the means of financing the cost of treatment plants required to abate pollution. If this Commission could successfully offer a comprehensive plan for financing construction of treatment plants and trunk sewers, we are confident that abatement will proceed most rapidly. The cost of constructing the sewage treatment works, together with the necessary intercepting or trunk sewers for the entire Sanitation District has been variously estimated from \$300,000,000 to \$500,000,000. Many municipalities within the District are entirely unable to finance these improvements. Tentative plans for financing this construction are now being studied. When suitable plans have been evolved, they will be submitted together with recommendations concerning additional legislation, if necessary.

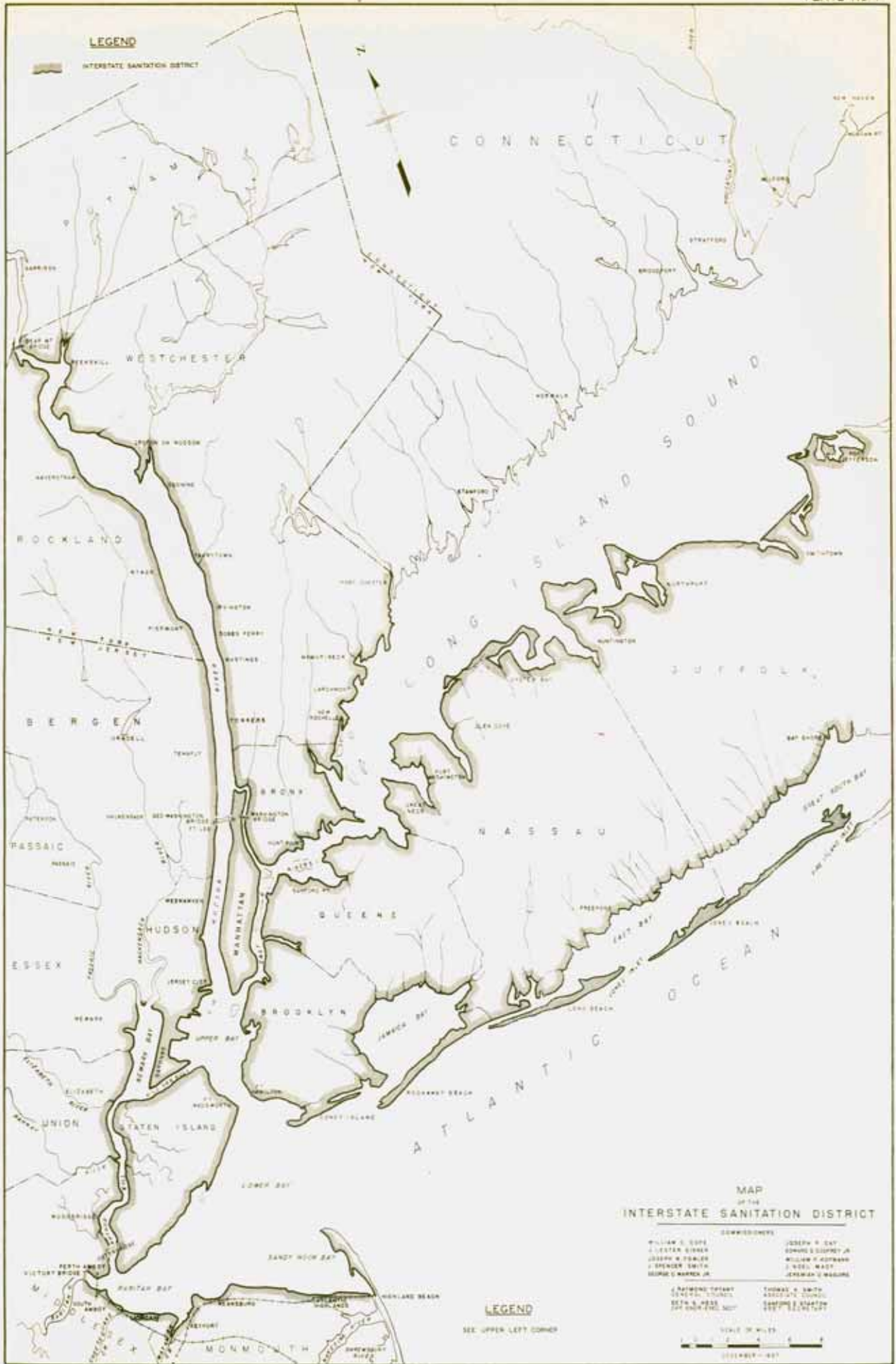
#### ABATEMENT

It is the purpose of this Commission to act on a progressive plan, rather than to

issue orders on a large scale to municipalities and other entities violating the Compact. The wholesale issuance of orders would, it is believed, result in unfavorable public opinion, as well as throwing loads which they are not at present designed to carry upon existing agencies, health departments, finance and construction organizations. By progressive action, it is hoped that the amount of construction on sanitation projects may be carried on from year to year in increasing quantities, but in such a manner as would permit the construction, financing and state agencies to meet the requirements.

#### PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR

It is proposed to conclude the designation of classification in the early part of the year and to continue work on sampling and analyses for the purpose of measuring the degree of pollution within the Harbor to carry on a year by year comparison. During the coming year, we propose to examine a far greater number of sources of pollution and to prepare the necessary ground work upon which the Commission may take the necessary action toward spurring the municipality or other entity to abate the pollution.



**LEGEND**

INTERSTATE SANITATION DISTRICT

CONNECTICUT

WESTCHESTER

ROCKLAND

BERGEN

PASSAIC

ESSEX

UNION

STATEN ISLAND

BROOKLYN

QUEENS

NASSAU

LONG ISLAND SOUND

SUFFOLK

ATLANTIC OCEAN

**MAP OF THE INTERSTATE SANITATION DISTRICT**

- COMMISSIONERS
- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| WILLIAM S. COPE       | JOSEPH R. DAY         |
| J. LESTER SINGER      | EDWARD S. GIBNEY, JR. |
| JOSEPH W. STANLEY     | WILLIAM F. JOHNSON    |
| J. DONALD SMITH       | J. WELLS WAST         |
| GEORGE C. WARREN, JR. | JEREMIAH C. WASSING   |

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| CARLENE THOMAS    | THOMAS S. SMYTH   |
| SEYMOUR THOMAS    | ASSOCIATE COUNCIL |
| BOB S. WELLS      | JOHN J. WELLS     |
| BOB S. WELLS, JR. | STEPHEN S. WELLS  |

**LEGEND**

SEE UPPER LEFT CORNER



JANUARY - 1957



## Section II—History

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The history of pollution of the New York Harbor, of course, extends back to the time when Manhattan was first settled, the first recorded sewer having been built in 1696. It has been but natural to continue to empty sewers into the Harbor since in the last century the waters surrounding New York City appeared to be amply able to assimilate all of the sewage which was carried to them. The load of pollution which these waters had to carry was increased slowly and the detrimental effects were insidious in their growth. There was a sudden realization of the extent to which this shameful situation had been carried and public opinion was finally focused upon it due probably to the plans to discharge the effluent from the Passaic Valley Trunk Sewer into New York Bay. If the Passaic outfall caused public awakening to a situation already serious, we of today owe its sponsors a debt of gratitude. In 1903, the New York State Legislature appointed the "New York Bay Pollution Commission" and in 1906, this Commission submitted a report on the Passaic Valley Outfall and also a careful sanitary survey of the Harbor waters. It showed conclusively the immediate need of sewage treatment; however, that Commission presented no specific plan for abatement. In 1906, the New York State Legislature appointed the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission for the purpose of continuing the investigation of the previous Commission, with instructions to prepare a plan to improve the condition. This Commission made a most exhaustive investigation and its reports cover three large volumes, the last of which was submitted in 1914. The reports contained studies and plans which have formed a basis of nearly all of the subsequent work. The City of New York has adopted much of the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission's recommendations in its present comprehensive plans.

Just prior to the completion of the report of the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, New York City established the "Sewer Plan Commission" created in 1913 to cooperate with the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission. The Sewer Plan Commission of the City, however, presented an alternative plan. There then followed the first official tentative plan for a comprehensive treatment of New York City sewage which was made by Kenneth Allen, Sanitary Engineer for the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and presented in 1920. In the meantime, however, the State of New Jersey had gone forward with the construction of the Passaic Valley Trunk Sewer which provided for one of the first major sewage treatment plants in the area.

In 1924, a Joint Legislative Committee was formed for the purpose of devising ways and means to be undertaken jointly by the States of New York and New Jersey and Connecticut, whereby pollution may be minimized and whereby such States may jointly urge the Federal Government to take such measures, within its jurisdiction, as shall be proper to remedy conditions in New York Harbor and the adjacent coastal waters. This Committee made a study of the existing sewer systems and methods of sewage disposal. The Committee made numerous personal inspections of conditions of pollution, held hearings and examined many persons, as well as having conferences with the Governors and other officials of the Federal Government in the three States involved. After exhaustive study, the Committee submitted a report in February 1927, which contained among others, the following recommendations:

Immediate official adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan of sewage disposal in greater New York and a prompt start on such plan.



The release to the City of such portions of Ward's and Welfare Islands as may be necessary for the installation of sewage disposal plants as planned by the City of New York.

That steps be taken to force the City of New York to erect sufficient garbage disposal plants in a manner to scientifically dispose of garbage and refuse and to eliminate dumping at sea.

Thomas K. Smith, Associate Counsel to this Commission, was Counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee.

The United States Engineers offices made a report on the waters of this District, including the Hudson River as far as Poughkeepsie, which was submitted in 1925. And the Governor's Special Long Island Sanitary Commission submitted a report in May, 1931. A report was submitted in December, 1935, by the Nassau County Sanitation Commission which confined itself to the problem of sanitation in Nassau County.

The Tri-State Treaty Commission was created under the provisions of Chapter 671 of the laws of New York of 1931, Joint Resolution No. 8 of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey adopted April 21st, 1931, and Chapter 142, Section 423-a of the laws of the State of Connecticut, 1931. That Commission held its first meeting on June 3rd, 1931, at which the Honorable Joseph P. Day was elected Chairman. It submitted its report on February 10th, 1932, which contained three appendices, Appendix A, a recommended form of the Tri-State Compact, Appendix B, recommended forms of legislation, Appendix C, report of the Research and Engineering Committee.

As a direct result of the recommendations of the Tri-State Treaty Commission, the Tri-State Compact establishing the Interstate Sanitation District and the Interstate Sanitation Commission was made effective by the enactment of Chapters 3 and 4 of the laws of New York, 1936, and Chapters 321 and 322 of the laws of New Jersey, 1935. At the present writing, the State of Connecticut has not adopted the Tri-State

Compact, however, it has continued its Treaty Commission. The designated members have attended meetings of the Interstate Sanitation Commission and have remained in close contact with the work of this Commission.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The progress of matters in connection with the abatement of pollution can best be followed by a review of articles on the subject. To record this information in accessible form, there is appended a bibliography of articles concerning sewage disposal and pollution in the Interstate Sanitation District from 1892 to 1937.

#### THE COMMISSION

The first meeting of the Interstate Sanitation Commission was held on February 17, 1936, at which Joseph P. Day was elected Chairman; Colonel J. Lester Eisner, Vice Chairman; J. Spencer Smith, Treasurer. Jeremiah D. Maguire has been designated Acting Chairman.

Regular meetings of the Commission during 1937 were held on: January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 16th, July 17th, August 4th, September 14th, October 6th, November 3rd, December 8th. A special meeting was held on April 20th.

#### PERSONNEL

The staff of the Commission was reappointed to continue in their respective offices and positions. The position of Secretary to the Chairman was, however, discontinued.

Seth G. Hess was engaged to serve the Commission as its Chief Engineer, effective February 1st. Edith Garthwaite Knight was engaged as Typist-Telephone Operator, effective February 1st; Frank G. Manning was engaged as Assistant Engineer, effective June 1st.

On April 10th, Gerald W. Knight, Executive Secretary, passed away.



At the special meeting of April 20th, the following resolution was passed by the Commission and ordered spread upon the minutes:

RESOLUTION  
of

Respect and Sympathy Adopted by the  
INTERSTATE SANITATION COMMISSION  
60 Hudson Street, New York City

WHEREAS, *Gerald W. Knight*, our beloved friend and Associate, whose untiring efforts in behalf of this Commission and of the general public welfare, has departed this life, terminating a career of immeasurable service and countless blessings to many; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Commissioner and as the first Executive Secretary of this Commission; and

WHEREAS, by his loyalty, character and friendliness he endeared himself to his associates; and

WHEREAS, he gave of himself to the fullest extent in the interests of this Commission and its predecessor, the Tri-State Treaty Commission; now, therefore,

*Be it Resolved*, that there be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, an expression of the sorrow which his associates feel in the loss of one for whom they had the highest regard.

*Be it Further Resolved*, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his family, as an inadequate though most sincere tribute to a Man—a Friend.

Unanimously passed and spread upon the minutes of this meeting, this 20th day of April, 1937.

(Signed) JOSEPH P. DAY, *Chairman*,  
*Interstate Sanitation Commission*

At a special meeting of April 20th, Seth G. Hess, Chief Engineer, was authorized to act as Executive Secretary, in addition to his duties as Chief Engineer.

An Assistant Engineer, draftsman and two stenographers were engaged for temporary work during the month of December. At the conclusion of the year, the staff consisted of a General Counsel, Associate Counsel, Assistant Secretary and six members of the operating staff, and in addition four temporary employees.

On February first, the Commission established its office at 60 Hudson Street, occupying 1200 square feet on the fourth floor.

The meetings of the Commission are regularly held at the Commission's office, 60 Hudson Street, New York City.

In addition to the regular meetings, the Commissioners made personal inspection trips of the more grossly polluted areas of the District. Through the courtesy of the Supervisor of the Harbor, Captain T. H. Taylor, boats were made available to the Commissioners. On each trip, small boats were used and detailed inspections were made into the various canals, creeks and estuaries where the worst pollution existed.