

Voluntary Compliance: Industry & Manufacturing

"Lake Erie is Dead"

Common News Title in the 60s

"On August 2, 2014, Ohio's governor declared a state of emergency and officials in Toledo, the state's fourth-largest city, warned residents not to drink water from their taps because of toxins detected in the water supply, most likely from algal blooms in Lake Erie"

Voluntary Compliance

What is it?

"Voluntary compliance is seen as an alternative to the state-imposed regulations on a company's behavior. Proponents of voluntary compliance argue that it is in a company's own interest to behave socially responsibly and that in pursuit of good public image, the company will withdraw from doing actions which could damage its perception by the public..."

Thus there is no need for state regulations."

Who is Volunteering?

Just about everyone who can

Public Sewage Treatment Facilities
Municipal Sewer System Operations
CAFO's (concentrated animal feeding operations)
Large Scale Farming Operations
Power Plants

Does it work?

Not really

The Environmental Law and Policy Center, which advocates for water quality issues, says while Ohio's plan has some positive steps, it falls short

because it relies too much on voluntary rather than mandatory measures.