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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

MADISON, WISCONSIN. Philip H. Derse, President of the WARF Institute, Inc., announced today that several leading pesticide manufacturers are assisting the Institute financially in a study of Lake Michigan waters. The study is designed to help determine the extent of any residues which might be connected with their products, and to appraise their significance. It supplements the existing programs of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the cooperative programs of the States of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Derse explained that the study emphasizes sampling of water, sediment, plankton and fish in tributary areas of Lake Michigan where the above groups are already performing biological and other sampling. It will also stress investigative sampling of suspected sources of pollution. Over 500 samples have already been taken and plans call for an additional 1000 samples in the next 6 to 8 months. Results of analyses, which will include pesticide residues and other potential pollutants, will be promptly shared with the cooperating Federal and State agencies.

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The project is being coordinated by Dr. John J. Birdsall, WARF Institute Vice President, and a native of the Lake Michigan city of Algoma, Wisconsin. Derse indicated that the following companies had already pledged their support: Montrose Chemical Corporation of California, Shell Chemical Company and Velsicol Chemical Corporation.

Derse pointed out that in President Nixon's inaugural address he emphasized the significant benefits which might be achieved by increased industry participation in attempts to solve some of this nation's complex socio-economic problems. He said this was an illustration of industry taking its share of the burden.

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