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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency protects human health and the environment by establishing and enforcing regulations for air quality, drinking water and stream water quality, wastewater treatment, and solid and hazardous waste disposal.

This is done by: issuing permits to install and operate facilities; providing oversight through inspections and sampling; monitoring and reporting on environmental quality; providing environmental education and technical assistance; providing assistance in pollution prevention; and taking enforcement actions against violators. Loans and grants are provided for nonpoint source water pollution control and for some environmental infrastructure, such as sewage and drinking water treatment plants.

Ohio EPA has approximately 1,300 employees and its director is appointed by the Governor. Ohio EPA has an annual operating budget of approximately \$180 million. Staff in five district offices throughout the state are responsible for writing initial permits, on-site inspections, monitoring, collecting samples, initiating enforcement, and other direct contact with regulated facilities and citizens.

Air Quality

Ohio EPA regulates more than 73,000 individual sources of air pollution at 13,000 facilities.

To protect Ohio's air quality, Ohio EPA annually reviews approximately 1,100 requests for permits to install new air pollution sources and approximately 1,400 applications for permits to operate air contaminant sources. Ohio has more than 700 major sources that require comprehensive state-federal operating permits.

Ohio EPA also requires "in-stack" monitoring of emissions at 115

facilities, including more than 350 major pollution sources, as well as biannually inspecting facilities that emit more than 100 tons of air pollution, and all facilities that emit regulated levels of hazardous air pollutants. The toxic release inventory program maintains a database of annual reports from 1,700 facilities indicating the amount of toxic chemicals that are released into the environment.

Ohio EPA monitors air quality throughout the state to evaluate compliance with federal health-based standards and to evaluate potential risks from air toxics.

Hazardous Waste Management and Cleanup

To ensure the proper management of hazardous waste in Ohio, Ohio EPA oversees the operations of 44 permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities. It also regulates more than 1,300 large generators of hazardous waste and at least 11,000 small generators of hazardous waste. Ohio EPA also oversees the proper closure or cleanup of areas where hazardous waste was managed, and oversees the proper abandonment of facilities that go out of business. The Agency assists and oversees the

cleanup of hazardous waste sites, including 34 federal Superfund sites and 130 state-designated sites, and responds to approximately 1,500 spills annually. Ohio EPA also approves cleanups at 20 to 30 sites annually that are voluntarily cleaned up.

Drinking Water

Ohio EPA has jurisdiction over approximately 5,800 public drinking water systems that conduct routine monitoring for bacteriological or chemical contaminants. Ohio EPA reviews more than 100,000 water quality monitoring reports annually to ensure all drinking water standards are being met. Ohio EPA annually inspects approximately 3,000 public water systems and reviews around 1,500 plans for new or upgraded public water systems. Ohio EPA staff are

Agency Goals

- Ensure clean air, water and land resources.
- Clean up contaminated sites and prevent the spread of contamination.
- Ensure all national air quality standards of the Clean Air Act are met.
- Reduce the emissions of air toxins.
- Increase the number of streams achieving the swimmable/fishable standards of the Clean Water Act.
- Encourage major facilities to develop and implement pollution prevention plans and include pollution prevention projects in enforcement settlements.
- Ensure permitted and licensed facilities are in compliance.
- Provide education and outreach on environmentally friendly behaviors.
- Encourage Ohioans to reduce, reuse, or recycle solid waste.
- Ensure Ohio's public water systems provide adequate supplies of safe drinking water.



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assisting all public water systems in assessing the susceptibility of their source water to contamination. In addition, Ohio EPA administers the examination and certification, including ongoing education requirements, for more than 10,000 operators of Ohio's water and wastewater treatment facilities. The Agency also certifies and inspects laboratories certified to perform drinking water analyses.

Surface Water

Surface water protection is provided for Ohio's 29,000 miles of perennial streams; more than 5,000 lakes, ponds and reservoirs; a 451-mile border on the Ohio River; and 236 miles of Lake Erie shoreline. Ohio EPA develops water quality standards, conducts stream studies to identify water quality problems and recommends actions to eliminate these

problems. Also, Ohio EPA regulates discharges from more than 18,000 industrial, storm water, mining and municipal point sources. Permits issued to these sources include pollutant limits and requirements to protect water quality and ensure compliance with state and federal requirements. Ohio EPA also administers federal Clean Water Act grants to abate nonpoint sources of pollution such as agricultural runoff.

agement districts. The Agency regulates the management and treatment of infectious waste involving over 2,934 generators, 70 transporters and 80 Ohio treatment facilities.

Ohio EPA provides oversight of more than 70 construction and demolition debris landfills. The scrap tire abatement program contracts for cleanup of the worst illegal tire dumps in Ohio.

Solid Waste Management

Ohio EPA administers programs to ensure the proper planning and management of Ohio's annual generation of 33 million tons of solid waste involving oversight of 54 operating landfills, 57 transfer facilities, 593 compost facilities, 32 scrap tire facilities and 71 scrap tire transporters. The Agency also provides oversight of Ohio's 52 solid waste man-

Technical Assistance

Ohio EPA also provides free on-site and other types of compliance and technical assistance. The Agency offers grants up to \$50,000 for environmental education projects, and partners with various statewide organizations who share the goal of promoting environmental education.

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