



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Issues Water Quality Certification for Ohio River Clean Fuels Project; Continues Work on Remaining Permit Applications

Ohio EPA has issued a water quality certification to Ohio River Clean Fuels, LLC (ORCF), for a proposed coal-to-liquid fuels plant in Columbiana and Jefferson counties. The water quality certification to impact wetlands and streams is the first of three major State environmental permits ORCF needs to proceed with the project at Sixteen School Road south of Wellsville.

The water quality certification allows ORCF to impact up to 8,155 feet of streams, 1.69 acres of wetlands and .29 acre of ponds to construct a plant to transform coal and other biomass into liquid fuel via a coal gasification process. To mitigate the impacts, ORCF will rehabilitate and protect Rocky Run and a portion of its tributaries totaling approximately 13,723 feet, and create 2.54 acres of wetlands. All mitigation will be performed onsite.

On April 17, 2008, Ohio EPA held a public hearing at Wellsville High School to discuss the application and accept comments from the community. A response to comments submitted during the public comment period and a copy of the water quality certification is online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/OhioRiverCleanFuels.html.

Anyone wanting to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the State must first obtain a water quality certification from Ohio EPA and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA's review found the proposed project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

Issuance of the water quality certification can be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). Many appeals must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

Ohio EPA continues work on two other ORCF permit applications. On May 27, 2008, the Agency held a public hearing concerning a draft wastewater discharge permit and is reviewing comments submitted during the public comment period. In addition, a permit application related to air emissions is under review and a draft air permit is expected to be issued within the next few weeks. A public hearing concerning the air permit has not yet been scheduled.

More information on ORCF's proposed project and the pending wastewater discharge and air permits is online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/ohiorivercleanfuels.html.