



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Considering Options to Reduce Fish Mortality at Bay Shore Power Plant's Maumee Bay Water Intake

Ohio EPA will host a public information session from 6:30-8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, to discuss a new report that evaluates options for reducing impingement and entrainment of fish by the Bay Shore Power Plant's cooling water intake system.

The meeting will be held at the Wynn Elementary School gymnasium, 5224 Bay Shore Road, Oregon. FirstEnergy Corp.'s Bay Shore plant is located nearby, drawing and discharging water near the confluence of the Maumee River and Maumee Bay.

Millions of fish, their eggs and larvae are captured or killed each year by cooling water intake systems at the nation's power plants. Impingement occurs when fish and shellfish are trapped against the plant's cooling water intake screens. Entrainment occurs when fish eggs and larvae are drawn into the cooling water system.

The federal Clean Water Act requires these facilities to use the best technology available to minimize environmental impacts.

FirstEnergy conducted detailed studies on fish impingement and entrainment and on the thermal plume created by heated water discharged into Maumee Bay from the plant's cooling system.

Ohio EPA asked an independent environmental engineering firm, Tetra Tech, to examine FirstEnergy's studies and the technologies available to reduce the Bay Shore intake system's impact on fish and determine which ones would work best at the plant. Tetra Tech's report also reviewed impacts on Maumee Bay from the thermal plume.

At the public meeting, Ohio EPA representatives will detail the report and answer questions. Ohio EPA is currently considering renewal of the plant's wastewater discharge permit and may require improvements to reduce the facility's environmental impact on Maumee Bay.

FirstEnergy representatives also are expected to attend and present information on the company's studies.

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