



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Seeks Comments on Two Draft General Permits To Cover Small Sewage Treatment Facilities

Ohio EPA is updating two general permits that regulate sewage treatment facilities that discharge 25,000 gallons per day or less. Public comments are welcome through October 30, 2009.

The first general permit covers eligible sewage treatment facilities, including sanitary systems from public, industrial and commercial facilities. The permit would continue to establish limits for dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, ammonia, fecal coliform and residual chlorine. A change in residual chlorine limits for direct discharges to the Ohio River has been added to be consistent with Ohio EPA water quality standard rules and permitting. The proposed change is less stringent than the current version.

The second permit would cover existing sanitary treatment discharges that are not currently meeting the best available demonstrated control technology (BADCT) treatment standards. The permit would include a compliance schedule requiring operators to upgrade their treatment systems to meet the BADCT standards; it proposes allowing three years to meet the standard after obtaining coverage under the permit. The BADCT standards would apply to the same chemical parameters listed above.

Both permits would have a new requirement that those holding permits install signs to notify the public next to points where treated water empties into receiving streams.

Statewide general permits have a five-year duration and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that period; the current permit lapses December 31, 2009. There are two types of discharge permits: general and individual. An individual permit is specific to a facility or location, a specific amount of discharge, the specific receiving stream affected and other factors. When many individual permits contain very similar or identical requirements, and water quality impacts are considered to be minimal, a general permit may be put in place. A general permit covers all existing dischargers meeting the same eligibility criteria and applies only to discharges that have a minimal effect on the environment. Public comments on the conditions of a general permit are considered when the general permit is created or reviewed, rather than for each project.

Sanitary Wastewater General Permit
October 13, 2009
2-2-2-2-2

Copies of both draft general permits and the associated fact sheets and documentation can be obtained on the Ohio EPA-DSW Web page at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/gpfact.aspx> or by contacting one of the following Ohio EPA district offices:

- Southeast District Office at (740) 385-8501;
- Southwest District Office at (937) 285-6357;
- Northwest District Office at (419) 352-8461;
- Northeast District Office at (330) 963-1200; or
- Central District Office at (614) 728-3778.

Persons wishing to be on Ohio EPA's interested party mailing list or interested in submitting comments may do so by writing to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Attention: Eric Nygaard, Permits and Compliance Section, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 by October 30, 2009.

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