



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

FOR RELEASE: November 29, 2010
MEDIA CONTACT: Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

**Ohio EPA Drafts Renewal General Permit
Covering Industrial Storm Water Discharges**

Ohio EPA is taking comments on a draft general permit that regulates discharges of storm water from industrial activities. A public hearing will be held on December 16, 2010, in Columbus.

The permit renewal would continue to allow general permit coverage for industrial storm water and includes requirements for who is covered under this action; how to obtain coverage; how to terminate coverage; fees required; reporting and monitoring requirements; and requirements for permittees to develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan designed to eliminate or minimize contamination from industrial storm water at each facility covered. Facilities would have 180 days to update the storm water plan to make it consistent with new requirements.

Permit changes being considered include:

- add four new industries, including existing metal mines, existing mineral (sand and gravel) mines, closed or capped landfills and coal pile run-off from steam electric plants;
- require floodplain areas to be reclaimed and free of any diked portions left behind from abandoned mining operations for sand and gravel operations;
- add effluent limits for six industrial sectors;
- require the submission of the facility's annual report;
- add quarterly benchmark monitoring requirements for 19 industrial sectors during the first year of the general permit, specifying pollutants each industry must monitor to determine whether those pollutants exceed benchmark values set to be consistent with Ohio's water quality criteria; and
- require continued monitoring and control measure modifications for facilities not meeting the industry-specific pollutant level until the benchmark is met.

The public information session and hearing on Thursday, December 16, is at 2:30 p.m. in Ohio EPA's central office, conference room A, 5th Floor, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus. At the meeting, Ohio EPA will present information, answer questions and accept public comments on the draft permit. The public hearing will end when everyone has had an opportunity to testify. Visitors to the building must present a photo I.D.

Statewide general permits are valid for five years and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that time. A general permit is one permit covering many locations that have similar discharges. General permits are used to allow discharges that will have a minimal impact on the environment. After the permit would become final, an individual could request coverage under the general permit by submitting a notice of intent and paying applicable fees.

Copies of the [draft general permit and the associated fact sheet](#) are available online. Persons wishing to be on Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list, or wishing to submit written comments can mail them to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or submit [by e-mail](#). Comments will be accepted through Thursday, December 23, 2010. Ohio EPA will consider all comments before finalizing the new permit.