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## **Ohio EPA Issues Final Permit to FirstEnergy Lake Shore Plant**

Ohio EPA has issued a final modified permit for FirstEnergy's discharge of mercury at its power plant located at 6800 Marginal Road in Cleveland.

The modified permit will allow FirstEnergy to continue discharging wastewater to Lake Erie that averages 2.9 parts per trillion (ppt) of mercury. At the same time, the company must enhance efforts to minimize the sources of mercury coming to the plant.

FirstEnergy requested a permit modification because the plant's wastewater discharge is unable to meet the required limit of 1.3 ppt of mercury. Instead of installing extremely costly technology that may or may not meet the limit, the modified permit requires FirstEnergy to focus on reducing the sources of mercury through a pollutant minimization plan.

FirstEnergy has six months to complete a mercury analysis at the ash pond discharge, 13 months to evaluate its coal sources and other sources of mercury, and 18 months to complete a treatment system evaluation/optimization project.

On October 2, 2008, and January 21, 2010, Ohio EPA held public meetings in Cleveland to discuss the requested permit modification and considered all public comments. Copies of the response to comments are available at:  
[www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/FirstEnergy\\_lakeshore.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/FirstEnergy_lakeshore.aspx).

Issuance of the final permit 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 or [www.erac.ohio.gov](http://www.erac.ohio.gov) for more information.

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