

Ohio EPA Response to Comments
Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan – CWA Section 319(h) – Pre-Implementation and Post-Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2021 Projects
August 2021

The Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for CWA Section 319(h) – Pre-Implementation and Post-Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2021 Projects was made available for review and comment from June 29, 2021 to July 29, 2021. The Agency received comments from Oxbow, Inc. and Mill Creek Alliance.

Overall/General Comments

Comment 1: Sampling and testing of the chemical and biological quality of the water in the Great Miami River (GMR) below the point where the Whitewater River drains into the GMR has not been conducted in the past. In recent years, an industrial park has been built along the Whitewater River just before it passes the state line into Ohio and effluent from the municipal wastewater treatment plant in Harrison, Ohio, is growing. Additionally, Rumpke, Inc., has acquired acreage for a landfill and there is a concern of runoff and leachate from the landfill entering the Whitewater and Great Miami Rivers. It is suggested that Ohio EPA conduct monitoring in the GMR below its junction with the Whitewater River for future protection of the rivers. (Oxbow, Inc.)

Response 1: Thank you for your comment. As stated in report sections A5 - Problem Definition/Background, and A6 – Project Task/Description, this QAPP is developed to cover Ohio EPA’s §319/NPS Program pre- and post-monitoring for many recently executed grants, and some recently closed §319 and GLRI grant awards (mostly pass-through sub-awards for projects implemented by sub-awardee entities).

While adding sample locations in this area is outside the scope of this survey, Ohio EPA will take this information into consideration when designing the future, targeted biological and water quality study of the lower Great Miami River watershed.

**Comment 2: Correct error, Page 11
21(h)EPA-05 (Figure 1)**

**Change: Phase 1 is designed to restore 730 linear feet of Sharon Creek
To: Phase 1 is designed to restore 600 linear feet of Sharon Creek (Mill Creek Alliance)**

Response 2: Ohio EPA has made this correction.

Comment 3: MBI has been contracted by the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District to sample some two-dozen locations along the mainstem of the Mill Creek which may include sites at, or near, Station Q01S12 and Station Q01S09 Mill Creek. I am certain that MBI will monitor Twin Creeks, Sharonville, OH where there is a Section 319 project as per the below table. (Mill Creek Alliance)

Response 3: Thank you for your comment. Ohio EPA is aware of the work being completed by MBI and will reference any data collected as appropriate.

Comment 4: Several Section 319 projects in the Mill Creek Watershed were not listed in the monitoring plan. They are listed in order of priority to current project:

- **Twin Creek Wetland Enhancement (Pre-Project)**
- **Low-Head Dam Mitigation, River Mile 12.2 (Pre-Project)**
- **Reading Floodplain Bench – Phase I (Post-Project, Completed 2021)**
- **Mill Creek Headwaters TMDL Implementation (Post-Project) (Mill Creek Alliance)**

Response 4: Only project sites determined to be ready for pre- or post-monitoring during this sampling season have been included in this QAPP. Projects not included, if not included in previous years' study plans, will be included in future study plans. Oftentimes, project post-monitoring is not done until several years after implementation to allow for biology and riparian areas to develop. Past QAPPs can be found on Ohio EPA's website at: epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index#1883810689-study-plans.

End of Response to Comments