

(3) Constructing individual mitigation projects.

Notwithstanding the mitigation hierarchy specified in section 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code, mitigation projects shall be approved in accordance with the hierarchy specified in 33 C.F.R. 332.3 unless the director determines that the size or quality of the impacted resource necessitates reasonably identifiable, available, and practicable mitigation conducted by the applicant. The director shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code consistent with the mitigation hierarchy specified in 33 C.F.R. 332.3.

(J) The director may establish a program and adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for the purpose of certifying water quality professionals to assess streams to determine existing aquatic life use and to categorize wetlands in support of applications for section 401 water quality certification under divisions (A)(2) and (3) of this section and isolated wetland permits under sections 6111.022 to 6111.024 of the Revised Code. The director shall use information submitted by certified water quality professionals in the review of those applications.

Rules adopted under this division shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide for the certification of water quality professionals to conduct activities in support of applications for section 401 water quality certification and isolated wetland permits, including work necessary to determine existing aquatic life use of streams and categorize wetlands. Rules adopted under division (J)(1) of this section shall do at least all of the following:

(a) Authorize the director to require an applicant for water quality professional certification to submit information considered necessary by the director to assess a water quality professional's experience in conducting stream assessments and wetlands categorizations;

(b) Authorize the director to establish experience requirements and to use tests to determine the competency of applicants for water quality professional certification;

(c) Authorize the director to approve applicants for water quality professional certification who comply with the requirements established in rules and deny applicants that do not comply with those requirements;

(d) Require the director to revoke the certification of a water quality professional if the director finds that the professional falsified any information on the professional's application for certification regarding the professional's credentials;

(e) Require periodic renewal of a water quality professional's certification and establish continuing education requirements for purposes of

that renewal.

(2) Establish an annual fee to be paid by water quality professionals certified under rules adopted under division (J)(1) of this section in an amount calculated to defray the costs incurred by the environmental protection agency for reviewing applications for water quality professional certification and for issuing those certifications;

(3) Authorize the director to suspend or revoke the certification of a water quality professional if the director finds that the professional's performance has resulted in submission of documentation that is inconsistent with standards established in rules adopted under division (J)(7) of this section;

(4) Authorize the director to review documentation submitted by a certified water quality professional to ensure compliance with requirements established in rules adopted under division (J)(7) of this section;

(5) Require a certified water quality professional to submit any documentation developed in support of an application for a section 401 water quality certification or an isolated wetland permit upon the request of the director;

(6) Authorize random audits by the director of documentation developed or submitted by certified water quality professionals to ensure compliance with requirements established in rules adopted under division (J)(7) of this section;

(7) Establish technical standards to be used by certified water quality professionals in conducting stream assessments and wetlands categorizations.

(K) As used in this section and section 6111.31 of the Revised Code, "section 401 water quality certification" means certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and this chapter and rules adopted under it that any discharge, as set forth in section 401, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Sec. 6111.44. (A) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, in section 6111.14 of the Revised Code, or in rules adopted under division (G) of section 6111.03 of the Revised Code, no municipal corporation, county, public institution, corporation, or officer or employee thereof or other person shall provide or install sewerage or treatment works for sewage, sludge, or sludge materials disposal or treatment or make a change in any sewerage or treatment works until the plans therefor have been submitted to and approved by the director of environmental protection. Sections 6111.44 to 6111.46 of the Revised Code apply to sewerage and