

Statewide

Ohio EPA Permit No. OHZ000001

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program**

**REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE  
OF DRAFT GENERAL NPDES PERMIT  
FOR CLEANING OF BRIDGE JOINTS, SCUPPERS AND DRAINAGE TROUGHS, AND  
SEATS**

Public Notice No.: 16-07-002  
Date of Issue: July 5, 2016

On the basis of staff review and application of standards and regulations, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will issue a draft general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharges associated with cleaning of bridge joints, scuppers and drainage troughs, and seats in the State of Ohio. The draft permit will be issued as a final action unless the Director revises the draft after consideration of the record of a public hearing or written comments, or upon disapproval by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Any person may submit comments on the draft permit and administrative record.

Bridge cleaning is a preventive maintenance task performed on a recurring basis in order to protect bridge decks, components, and superstructure against corrosion and the accumulation of water and debris on bridge components. Cleaning bridges at the appropriate time can assure the structural integrity and significantly extend the service life of a bridge at a lower lifetime cost.

The NPDES General Permit for Cleaning of Bridge Joints, Scuppers and Drainage Troughs, and Seats will be the first generation of this general permit. The general permit would be applicable statewide and authorize discharges resulting from bridge cleaning operations performed by public entities associated with the cleaning the following three areas of a bridge: (1) deck joints, (2) scuppers and drainage troughs, and (3) bridge seats. The bridge cleaning operations will be performed such that discharges to waters of the state are minimized. The term "minimize" means to reduce and/or eliminate discharges to the extent achievable using control measures (e.g., best management practices) that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable. The general permit would require the development of a site specific work plan that adheres to the conditions found within the permit.

The public notice, associated fact sheet and general permit may be viewed over the internet at <http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index.aspx>. Copies are also available for inspection at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency-Central Office, Division of Surface Water, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Michael Joseph at 614-752-0782 or via email at [Michael.Joseph@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Michael.Joseph@epa.ohio.gov).

The processing of this general permit and associated Notices of Intent for coverage is and will be done, respectively, in accordance with Ohio's antidegradation rule, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-1-05, and NPDES general permit rules, OAC 3745-38.

An Ohio EPA public hearing to accept comments on the draft general permit has been scheduled for 3 PM on August 24, 2016 in Conference Room A (Autumn Room), Ohio EPA, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The public hearing will end when everyone in attendance has had an opportunity to provide comments related to the draft general permit.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this draft general permit. Comments should be no later than end of day on August 31, 2016. Comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the official record of this hearing. Comments may be emailed to: [epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov) or by mail to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Surface Water - Permits Processing Unit  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

The OEPA permit number (OHZ000001) should appear next to the above address on the envelope and on each page of any submitted comments. The draft permit and supporting documents may be found at: [http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permit/GP\\_BridgeCleaning.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permit/GP_BridgeCleaning.aspx)