

Ohio EPA Policy	Design Criteria; Combined Sewers and Overflows	
DSW-0400.020 Removed	Statutory reference: Rule reference:	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Revision 0, August 1, 1988 Removed, April 30, 2003
THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW Pursuant to Section 3745.30 of the Revised Code, this policy was reviewed and removed.		

This policy does not meet the definition of policy contained in Section 3745.30 of the Ohio Revised Code. Ohio EPA is removing this document from the Division of Surface Water Policy Manual and is considering addressing this topic in a future revision to the Division of Surface Water Guidance Manual.

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Design Criteria; Combined Sewers and Overflows

PURPOSE: To provide design criteria guidelines for combined sewer overflows.

POLICY: Since system conditions can range from a single overflow point which would discharge only during a 100 year storm event to multiple overflow points which discharge every time there is a light rain (or even during dry weather), the development of a hard and fast policy for addressing pollution caused by combined sewer overflows is difficult. Therefore, every situation must be addressed individually. The following will serve as a framework for the required case by case analysis and action.

1. No new combined sewers will be approved.
2. All overflow points, including pump station overflows, shall be included, with appropriate monitoring, in either a NPDES permit or associated Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFOs).
3. If an analysis of conditions indicates that the number of overflow points is not excessive, overflow events do not occur during dry weather periods or under light rainfall conditions, and a pronounced pollution problem or use impairment does not exist, then the inclusion of the overflow points, with appropriate monitoring, in a NPDES permit is the appropriate action to address the CSOs.
4. If a Comprehensive Water Quality Report or other verifiable study indicates that overflow events are causing violations of water quality or are a significant nuisance, the entity shall be issued Director's Final Findings and Orders authorizing the discharge from the overflow points in the interim and requiring that a General Plan, including a compliance schedule, be submitted for the treatment or elimination of at least the critical overflows (the ones causing the water quality violations or nuisance conditions). The pollution problem and/or the nuisance must be fully documented so that the agency's action can be supported in case of adjudication.
5. Combined sewer overflow events shall not be allowed during dry weather periods. If sewers are operating at capacity and additional connections to the system would result in dry weather overflows, serious consideration should be given to the imposition of a connection ban. In addition, DFFOs shall be issued authorizing the overflows and requiring as a first step the submission of a general plan, including a schedule of compliance, for the correction of the capacity problem or treatment of the overflow discharge. Full documentation of the conditions which necessitate the ban is required so that upon appeal the agency's position can be supported.

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6. In cases where a combined sewer interceptor or specific segments thereof are near capacity and any additional loadings would be likely to result in dry weather events, the judicious use of denials of sanitary sewer extensions that would be tributary to the combined sewer segment or segments should be considered. In addition, the issuance of DFFOs imposing a connection ban, authorizing the overflows, and requiring as a first step the submission of a General Plan, including a schedule of compliance, for correcting the capacity problem shall be utilized, if appropriate. Again, full documentation is a must.
7. All conditions which result in stream water intrusion into a combined sewer system through the overflow points shall be corrected to maintain the integrity of the system and the treatment plant.
8. In all cases, the intercepting devices shall be maintained and operated in a manner such that the maximum allowable flow is directed to the treatment plant. If regulators are present, they should be operable, properly set, and kept free of debris.

In all cases where combined sewer overflow events are causing a pollution problem, a use impairment, or are creating a nuisance, the entity shall be contacted, the situation discussed, and our intended course of action explained.

It must be recognized that most municipalities do not have the financial capability to address all of their combined sewer overflow problems at once. The General Plan required in Items 4,5, and 6 above should address the elimination or treatment of the most critical overflows within the financial ability of the community and then develop long range plans with dates to address the remaining overflows. This long range plan should also cover methods of financing the remaining corrective actions. The approved plan can then be used as a basis to issue subsequent DFFOs.