

Ohio Environmental Protection
Agency **AGENDA**



*A summary of
significant
ongoing and
upcoming Ohio EPA
activities*

December 2002

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The following is a summary of significant ongoing and upcoming Ohio EPA activities. To obtain additional information, contact the person listed for each issue.

AGENCYWIDE INITIATIVES

Strategic Planning, Customer Service and Improving Quality

The Office of Strategic Management in the Director's Office oversees various activities to help ensure that the Agency is working to improve its operations, meet the expectations of its customers and plan for the future.

All employees are asked to continually look for ways to improve their jobs and the Agency. The new "Waste Out" program enables employees to make simple, quick improvements to their jobs that will save time or money. Savings to date range from pennies to several thousand dollars.

This summer, five customer service principles became effective. These principles further guide staff on how they should respond to inquiries, provide information and work with their customers. In addition, a set of Agency-wide metrics will be posted in public areas. These metrics will cover nine work areas (permitting, compliance, etc.), and will compare actual performance to established standards. Where gaps exist, individuals or teams will identify solutions and make improvements.

Contact: Al Franks, (614) 644-2782.

Quality Improvements

This year, during performance evaluations for chiefs, quality improvement goals were set for the first time. In all, over 20 improvements will be made to the Agency's permitting, enforcement, fiscal and other processes. Additional goals for improvement will be made during future evaluations.

Contact: Al Franks, (614) 644-2782.

DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Process Improvement Goals

Most of the division's short- and long-term goals address the compliance, enforcement, information management, permitting and closure/cleanup components of the program and are quality-based. Corrective action is the focus of this year's effort. The Division also applies quality principles to its environmental data-gathering operations through its U.S. EPA-approved quality management plan.

Contact: Dave Sholtis, (614) 644-2937.

Rulemaking

OAC rule sections include 3745-50 through 60; 3745-248 and 3745-270 through 279.

Boiler and industrial furnace rules; closure/post-closure permits; imports and exports of hazardous wastes; military munitions; universal waste lamps; mixed wastes; newly listed hazardous wastes; contaminated media; corrective action management unit rules, national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants and maximum achievable control technology.

Contact: Kit Arthur, (614) 644-2932

Electronic News Service

The division developed and implemented an electronic service to provide subscribers with quick and timely updates on events and news related to hazardous waste activities in Ohio. Topics include permitting, rulemaking, enforcement, policy and guidance development, and the Cessation of Regulated Operations program. Members will receive short updates on recent actions and Web site updates. This service is part of the Division of Hazardous Waste Management's continuing

efforts to improve the way we communicate with our stakeholders, and is free of charge.

Contact: Pamela Allen, (614) 644-2980.

Financial Assurance

Hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities that have hazardous waste management units are required to provide financial assurance to ensure there is sufficient money available in the event that the facility cannot or will not complete closure. To assist in providing complete financial assurance, the division is developing standardized financial assurance instruments, such as trust agreements and letters of credit, that will be made available on the division's Web site. The first of these documents will be on the Web by December 31, 2002.

Contact: Harry Sarvis, (614) 644-3519.

DIVISION OF SOLID AND INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Process Improvement Goals

The division has committed to work on 35 specific tasks in 2002 intended to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of both compliance monitoring efforts and enforcement actions. The division is currently working on 10 tasks relating to developing new and revised compliance monitoring and enforcement procedures. A key component includes the development of an inspection/enforcement reference manual for the division and health district staff. The program will develop and implement a statewide training program to be held in 2003. A division objective is also to further improve its enforcement program capability and timeliness.

Contact: Annette DeHavilland, (614) 728-5373.

Proposed Rule Packages

The following rule packages are proceeding through rulemaking:

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 closure/post-closure care

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 design & construction

OAC 3745-28 fees

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 ground water monitoring

OAC 3745-27 incinerators

OAC 3745-27 infectious waste

OAC 3745-37 and 3745-400 licensing

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 misc. landfill rules

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 operations

OAC 3745-27 permit-to-install

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 permit-to-install applications

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 siting criteria

OAC 3745-27 variances and exemptions

OAC 3745-27, 3745-29, and 3745-30 waste characterization

Contact: Peter Clingan, (614) 728-5325.

Composting

The composting of yard waste (backyard or centralized community facility) is a well-established natural disposal method that results in a usable material. Now, the prospect of composting organic waste from commercial and food processing operations is gaining serious consideration as a cost-effective alternative to landfilling. The division assists companies and local governments looking at composting as a potential solution to the management of animal carcasses and food processing wastes, and has proposed changes in the composting rules to better accommodate the composting of a wide range of organic wastes.

Contact: Alison Shockley, (614) 728-5335.

Developing Access to DSIWM's Information Management System

The division's comprehensive data management system called SIIMAN (Solid and Infectious Waste Information Management System) is online and in use. The next task is to provide access for health districts, solid waste management districts, and regulated facilities to electronically submit and track information such as waste receipts and fees. The division has completed the development of the data entry modules and will be working with a small number of health districts and solid waste management districts to test them before statewide distribution.

Contact: Alison Shockley, (614) 728-5335.

Technical Manual on Slope Stability

The Geotechnical Resource Group is a group of representatives from each district office and Central Office have up-to-date and thorough technical knowledge of geotechnical issues. The group has developed a draft technical guidance document titled "Geotechnical and Stability Analyses for Ohio Waste Containment Facilities." This draft document is open to public comment and can be viewed at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/pages/news_pages/n_georc_extension.html

Contact: Annette DeHavilland, (614) 728-5373.

Scrap Tire Abatement

Additional funding, provided by a legislatively approved fee increase on tires sold in Ohio from \$0.50/tire to \$1/tire, allows for the acceleration of the Kirby site cleanup and enables the Agency to pursue other priority scrap tire cleanups in the state.

Contact: Bob Large, (614) 728-5347.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY AND REMEDIAL RESPONSE

Process Improvement Goals

The division is focusing on improving four main areas. In remedial response, analysis of the remedial investigation and feasibility study process and practices is underway to find sources of delay in completing cleanups. Two specific areas of focus have been defined for analysis:

- requests for extensions by the primary responsible party in a cleanup; and
- alignment of division goals, staff goals, planning and reporting.

Second, the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) will evaluate processes to improve the number of covenant not to sue reviews that are completed within statutory time frames. Accurate data is needed for these first two goals in an effort to make cleanups better and faster. Third, the division will improve data and information management; this is integral to improving public availability and improving data quality for management decisions across all programs. Finally, in emergency response, the division will improve the timeliness and quality of incident reports. Information on goals and other programs listed below can be found at www.epa.state.oh.us/derr.

Contact: Peter Whitehouse, (614) 644-2924.

Federal Brownfields Law

The division is identifying program changes to take advantage of recently enacted updates to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). These changes include increasing funding for brownfields and limiting liability at sites cleaned under state response programs. U.S. EPA is utilizing workgroups that include state representatives to implement the new bill. These changes, at a minimum, will affect the voluntary action and remedial response programs.

Contact: Cindy Hafner, (614) 644-2924.

Terrorist Attack Preparedness

In conjunction with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio EPA's emergency response staff is increasing its capability to respond to environmental impacts from a variety of potential terrorist attacks. The division is investing federal grant funds in safety, specialized response equipment and training for staff.

Contact: Kevin Clouse, (614) 836-8752.

DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Process Improvement Goals

The division's quality-based goals focus on the permit-to-install (PTI) process. The division has committed to issue 100 percent of these permits within 180 days of receiving a complete application. The division also has set a goal to finish completeness reviews of PTI applications within 15 days of receiving the application. The division is participating in seven process improvement workgroups, in collaboration with members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Petroleum Council, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses - Ohio chapter. These workgroups include:

- permit and metrics committee
- training committee
- DAPC reorganization committee
- permit by rule committee
- general permit committee
- emissions exemption threshold committee
- emissions cap/plantwide applicability limit committee

Contact: Cindy DeWulf, (614) 644-3606.

Rulemaking

The Division of Air Pollution Control will make changes to the following rules:

OAC 3745-21-07

control of emissions of organic material from stationary sources

OAC 3745-31

permit-to-install new sources of pollution

OAC 3745-35

air permits to operate and variances

Contact: Susan Parkins, (614) 644-3627.

STARS Rebuild

In late 2002, a contractor will be hired to rebuild and expand the STARS/STARShip programs (the division's computer system for permitting, and emissions and fees reporting). A request for proposals has been issued.

Contact: Linda Ours, (614) 644-4833.

STARS Rebuild Process Improvements

As the division moves toward rebuilding and expanding STARS, several business processes have been targeted for improvement. Six process improvement teams have been launched for key business processes. They include central and district office staff and representatives from local air agencies. The following process improvements are underway:

- studying possible changes to permit-to-operate and permit-to-install review and issuance, emphasizing ways to combine processes and/or permits;
- studying and recommending changes to permit applications; and
- studying the effects of implementing a permanent combination of fee emission reporting and emission inventory system reporting requirements. Teams will be making final recommendations late in 2002.

Improvements already being implemented include:

- a plan to create and implement one comprehensive terms and conditions library which is accessible to all.
- improving guidance and outreach efforts for Non-Title V fee processing; and
- developing a plan for consolidating data for STARS. Quality assurance of data will begin at the end of 2002.

Contact: Linda Ours (614) 644-4833.

Nitrogen Oxide Regulations to Address Ozone Transport

Ohio EPA has adopted rules to reduce nitrogen oxide and implement an emission trading program, in accordance with U.S. EPA requirements to address the interstate transport of ozone. EPA will develop a plan to allocate set-aside credits for innovative technology and energy efficiency/renewable energy projects. In addition, U.S. EPA will be adopting rules to implement phase II of the nitrogen oxide state

implementation plan, which will require controls for additional sources of NOx (e.g., large internal combustion engines).

Contact: Bob Hodanbosi, (614) 644-2270.

Title V Implementation/ Permit Issuance

Ohio EPA continues to issue the first round of Title V permits for major sources. Ohio EPA has committed to have all final permits issued by September 2003. Stakeholders continue to have the opportunity to discuss the ongoing federal changes to the Title V requirements during periodic permit advisory group (PAG) meetings.

Contact: Bob Hodanbosi, (614) 644-2270.

Regional Haze Developments

U.S. EPA adopted regulations to deal with visibility impairment due to regional haze throughout the United States, but particularly in the national parks and wilderness areas. Ohio, along with the states of Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois and the tribes in those states has formed a group known as the Midwest Regional Planning Organization (RPO) to begin examining the effects of the emissions from sources in the Midwest on regional haze within the Midwest RPO states and surrounding areas. During 2003, there will continue to be progress in three key areas: (1) monitoring/data analysis, (2) inventory, and (3) preliminary modeling.

Contact: Bill Spires, (614) 644-3618.

Mercury Switches in Junk Cars

Ohio EPA is working with the scrap metal industry to reduce mercury emissions from the secondary metals industry through the removal of mercury switches in scrap cars prior to recycling the metal.

Contact: Paul Koval, (614) 644-3615.

DIVISION OF SURFACE WATER

Process Improvement Goals

The Division of Surface Water is working with U.S. EPA and other regional states to examine ways of streamlining the processing of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to maintain low permit backlogs, even with limited state resources. The project will look at administrative ways to improve permit efficiencies that may involve changes to state and federal rules and laws. The states have begun cataloging previously implemented programs, collecting ideas for further improvements and identifying legal and regulatory barriers. The intent of this initiative is to identify savings in the NPDES program that may be redirected to meet the needs of the storm water and total maximum daily load (TMDL) programs.

The Division of Surface Water is managing the permit-to-install (PTI) program to meet a goal of processing all PTIs within 180 days, with an ultimate goal of processing them within 60 days.

Contact: Paul Novak, (614) 644-2035.

Rulemaking

OAC 3745-1, 3745-32, 3745-45
water quality standards antidegradation policy, section 401 water quality certifications, and section 401 certification fees

OAC 3745-39
storm water - municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) program for small communities

OAC 3745-40
minor corrections to recently adopted sewage sludge rules
Contact: Bob Heitzman (614) 644-3075.

NPDES Permit Backlog Reduction

The division expects to continue progress in making substantial reductions in the permit backlog, and by July 1, 2003, expects to have eliminated it. Less than 10 percent of the universe of NPDES permits will be expired.

Contact: Paul Novak, (614) 644-2035.

Permits-to-Install

The Agency has initiated a major effort to clarify and improve the administrative and technical components of PTI submittals. Efforts in 2003 will be made to finalize a rules package that separates the rules governing wastewater and begin rule development on technical issues related to permits-to-install.

Contact: Cathy Alexander, (614) 644-2021.

Land Application of Wastewater Rules

Ohio EPA is developing rules covering spray irrigation systems for treated wastewater. These are typically systems that treat sanitary wastewater from homes and commercial establishments and instead of discharging to a nearby stream, the effluent is land applied as irrigation water. Uses of this water can include golf courses, field crops or forest land. The rules will cover technical issues such as treatment standards, application rates, storage needs, isolation distances and pathogen treatment. The rules are to be finalized by July 2003.

Contact: Cathy Alexander, (614) 644-2021.

Wet Weather Issues

In the coming year, more communities will be evaluated regarding overflows from municipal sewer systems due to wet weather. Increased emphasis will be placed on minimizing and eliminating overflows. Communities will be expected to implement adequate operation and maintenance and to address long term capacity. New reporting requirements will be added to all NPDES permits with public sewer systems to ensure regulatory agencies and citizens are made aware of overflows. Finally, communities that operate and own collection systems but who discharge to another community treatment plant also can expect additional requirements to identify and eliminate overflows.

Contact: Paul Novak, (614) 644-2035.

Animal Feeding Operations

Programmatic changes have been made in permitting animal feeding operations. Animal feeding operations with greater than 1,000 animal units that have had any discharge, or smaller operations

with controlled, direct discharges, are now required to apply for an NPDES permit. These permits will not allow future discharges, except as a result of catastrophic or chronic rain events.

Contact: Cathy Alexander, (614) 644-2021.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS)

Ohio EPA has begun work in three new project areas, the Huron River, the Vermilion River, and Seven Mile Creek (Great Miami River basin) for a total of 20 areas in the TMDL program. TMDLs in three areas are approved, and implementation is underway. Completed TMDL plans are to be submitted to U.S. EPA for approval during 2002.

Refer to the TMDL page for more information.

Contact: Trinka Mount, (614) 644-2140.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan

A Blue Ribbon Task Force on Balanced Growth was created in November 2001 to address this issue. Also underway are efforts to revise and refine the Lake Erie Quality Index and produce an updated State of Lake Erie Report in 2004.

Contact: Julie Letterhos, (614) 644-2871.

Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Work continues on the planning and engineering design to dredge contaminated sediments from the lower two miles of the Ashtabula River. The confined disposal facility will be constructed with an inner cell to contain the more highly contaminated sediments. Dewatering studies are being conducted in 2002. Detailed design of the dewatering facility, confined disposal facility and dredging should be completed in 2003, with permits issued in 2004, construction of the confined disposal facility in 2005, and river dredging in 2006. A detailed assessment to determine long-term injuries to the natural resources of the river from contaminants will be completed by Natural Resource Damage Trustees in 2003.

Contact: Julie Letterhos (614) 644-2871.

Black River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Nonpoint source management and the protection and expansion of the riparian corridor continue to be the priorities of the Black River RAP. The Lorain County General Health District is developing a home sewage disposal system operation and maintenance program. A report on an intensive dissolved oxygen modeling study on the lower river is expected by the end of the year. A sediment transport study of the entire watershed is in the planning and development stages. A watershed inventory is being developed for the French Creek sub-basin. Fish tumor incidence has declined significantly and removal of a contact advisory that has been in place for the lower river since 1983 is being considered.

Contact: Julie Letterhos, (614) 644-2871.

Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Stream stewardship programs and watershed management plans are in progress or being developed for a number of the tributary watersheds. With support of many RAP partners, several stream habitat restoration projects have been completed and others are in the planning stages. An inventory of wetlands and potential sites for wetland restoration is underway, as well as a survey of fish and sediment in the old channel of the river near the mouth. A TMDL for the lower river is also in progress.

Contact: Julie Letterhos, (614) 644-2871.

Maumee River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

An inventory of wetlands and a restoration strategy for wetlands and open space is being developed. The Toussaint River Improvement Incentive Program to reduce impacts from agricultural runoff has been very successful and continues. A "hot spot" delineation and risk assessment was completed for the Ottawa River, and a project is now underway to prioritize segments for cleanup. Due to a number of source control and remediation efforts along the Ottawa River, it is now possible to implement a recreational navigation

dredging project in the lower river. The dredging is anticipated in late 2004.

Contact: Julie Letterhos, (614) 644-2871.

DIVISION OF DRINKING AND GROUND WATERS

Process Improvement Goals

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, in cooperation with the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, is undertaking a number of initiatives to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to public water systems. A workgroup was formed in 2002 to evaluate the required components and frequency of completing sanitary surveys of public water systems. This effort is intended to make sure Ohio EPA staff are completing the most essential elements of surveys at water systems where they are needed most and reduce the level of staff resources needed to complete them. The division will identify alternative methods of collecting and disseminating information to owners and operators of public water systems as part of this effort.

The division also will be forming a group of interested parties during SFY 2003 to better define concerns about the process used to evaluate and approve engineering plans for new or improvements to existing public water systems. The group will then identify options to address those concerns.

Contact: Kirk Leifheit, (614) 644-2752.

Rulemaking

The following federal rules are in development: Radon rule; ground water rule; Long Term 2 enhanced surface water treatment rule; and Stage 2 disinfectants/disinfection by-products rule.

Contact: Mark Sheahan, (614) 644-2752.

Analytical Methods for Drinking Water Rule

OAC 3745-81-25
analytical methods for radioactivity

OAC 3745-81-27
analytical techniques

OAC 3745-89-03
procedure for laboratory approval

OAC 3745-89-08
reporting of analytical results
maximum contaminant level for arsenic

OAC 3745-81-11
maximum contaminant levels and best available technologies for inorganic contaminants

OAC 3745-81-23
inorganic chemical monitoring requirements

OAC 3745-81-24
organic chemical monitoring requirements consumer confidence report rules

OAC 3745-96-01
applicability and definitions

OAC 3745-96-02
required report content

OAC 3745-96-03
required additional health information lead and copper control rules - minor revisions

OAC 3745-81-81
applicability of corrosion control treatment to water systems

OAC 3745-81-82
description of corrosion control treatment requirements

OAC 3745-81-84
lead service line replacement requirements

OAC 3745-81-85
public education and supplemental monitoring

OAC 3745-81-86
monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water

OAC 3745-81-87
monitoring requirements for water quality parameters

OAC 3745-81-88
monitoring requirements water entering distribution system

OAC 3745-81-89
analytical methods

OAC 3745-81-90
reporting and record keeping
requirements. public notification
rule update

OAC 3745-81-23
inorganic chemical monitoring
requirements

OAC 3745-81-24
organic chemical monitoring
requirements

OAC 3745-81-32
public notification

OAC 3745-82-05
compliance with secondary maximum
contaminant levels (MCL) and public
notification for fluoride maximum
contaminant levels for radionuclides

OAC 3745-81-15
MCLs for radium-226, radium-228, and
gross alpha particle radioactivity in
community water systems

OAC 3745-81-16
MCLs for beta particle and photon
radioactivity from man-made
radionuclides in community water
system

Contact: Mark Sheahan, (614) 644-2752.

New and Revised Maximum Contaminant Levels / Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels

There were several new or revised maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs) that became effective January 1, 2002. The MCL for total trihalomethanes has been revised from 0.10 mg/L to 0.080 mg/L. In addition, the following three new MCLs became effective: five haloacetic acids (0.060 mg/L); bromate (0.010 mg/L); and chlorite (1.0 mg/L). MRDLs were set for total chlorine (4.0 mg/L) and chlorine dioxide (0.8 mg/L). These standards apply to all public water systems that serve 10,000 or more people and add a disinfectant or oxidant to the treated water. For systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people and add a disinfectant or oxidant, these MCLs become effective January 1, 2004.

Contact: Rich Ciotola, (614) 644-2752.

Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA)

During May 2002, Ohio Water Development Authority issued bonds on Ohio EPA's behalf in the amount of approximately \$60 million to fund the WSRLA program. It also issued bonds in the amount of approximately \$30 million to provide the necessary state match for the FFY 2003 appropriation capitalization grant. Including capitalization grants from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA has approximately \$120 million to lend to eligible public water systems to make infrastructure improvements (as of July 1, 2002).

Contact: Stacy Barna-Vormohr, (614) 644-2752.

Pilot Environmental Management System Project

The Southwest District Office is currently working on a pilot Environmental Management System (EMS) project. An EMS is a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the processes and actions that an organization undertakes to meet its business and environmental goals. The project will focus on how activities and outputs of the source water assessment Program can be used by other Ohio EPA divisions, ultimately improving the protection of our drinking water and improving coordination and communication between divisions.

Contact: Mike Proffitt, (937) 285-6357.

Operator Reimbursement Grant/Class A Drinking Water Systems

DDAGW will apply for a U.S. EPA Operator Reimbursement Grant. Grant funds in the amount of \$4,577,300 will be available to administer a training and certification expense reimbursement program for operators of community and non-community public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer. The division hopes to complete classification of all Class A drinking water systems (serving populations fewer than 250) by December 2002. Applications for limited certification, which is site specific and waives the requirement for passing a written examination, must be received by February 12, 2003.

Contact: Ashley Bird, (614) 644-2752.

Drinking Water Advisory Committee

To further the division's goal of improving public outreach and education, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) was formed in September, 2001. DWAC is a balanced cross-section of environmental and civic groups that will focus on three key areas: providing input on the development of Ohio's rules, recommending improvements to existing programs, and identifying funding options that will assist state and local funding needs. The division and DWAC will draft a 2002-2003 work plan that includes prioritized drinking water issues. The DWAC Web page is located at www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/pdu/dwacpg.htm.

Contact: Vicki Saunders, (614) 644-2752.

Public Water System Security

Congress passed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. It requires each community public water system serving more than 3,300 persons to conduct a vulnerability assessment and update its emergency response based on this information. Grants for these assessments will be distributed by U.S. EPA to public water systems, beginning with systems that serve more than 100,000 people. The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters is in the process of securing funds from U.S. EPA to coordinate activities related to increasing security and counter-terrorism. Activities include revising Ohio EPA's *Drinking Water Supply Emergency Plan*, promoting public water system security, and providing technical assistance, training, and education security needs and requirements.

Contact: Craig Smith, (614) 644-2752.

2003 Needs Survey (U. S. EPA)

The division will begin work on the 2003 U.S. EPA Needs Survey in order to determine infrastructure needs for public drinking water facilities in Ohio. The survey involves collection of detailed information on approximately 100 large- and medium-sized drinking water treatment facilities throughout the state. Information from this survey will be used to determine Ohio's allotment of grants from the drinking water state revolving loan fund.

Contact: John Arduini, (614) 644-2752.

UIC Program Primacy

U.S. EPA has required Ohio EPA to update the agreement that allows the Agency to enforce the federal rules for the underground injection control program. A draft copy of the program description was forwarded to U.S. EPA Region V during March 2002. Final submittal to U.S. EPA of the complete revised agreement is expected by January 2003.

Contact: Lindsay Taliaferro III, (614) 644-2752.

Identification/Evaluation of UIC Class V Well Operators

As part of implementing newly promulgated rules, Ohio EPA is using publicly available yellow pages software to identify and contact potential operators of motor vehicle waste disposal wells. Upon confirmation that a motor vehicle waste disposal well is present at a location, Ohio EPA is conducting inspections and taking the appropriate enforcement action.

Contact: Lindsay Taliaferro III, (614) 644-2752.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

The division will be working to complete 75-100 percent of the assessments for Ohio's approximately 1,000 qualified public water systems by July 1, 2003. Once assessments have been completed for community water systems, efforts will shift to the non-transient non-community water systems and finally to the transient non-community water systems.

Contact: Michael Eggert or Barb Lubberger, (614) 644-2752.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Process Improvement Goals

The Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance and the Division of Surface Water staff are continuing to integrate the water pollution control loan fund (WPCLF) financial assistance with Ohio's water quality protection and restoration

needs. The divisions are reviewing state-wide water quality priorities and evaluating additional ways to direct WPCLF assistance toward the most valuable improvements.

Contact: Margaret Klepic, (614) 644-2798.

ORC 6111.036. Rules

Rules are being prepared for implementation of the State Environmental Review Process and WPCLF Priority System and List.

Contact: Sanat Barua, (614) 644-2798.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Recently the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) passed the milestone of awarding more than \$2 billion in low-interest loan assistance to Ohio municipalities and individuals. The WPCLF program management plan for 2003 is being circulated for public comment and is expected to propose \$250 million - \$300 million in assistance for next year.

Contact: Bob McDonald, (614) 644-2798.

WPCLF Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program

This component of the WPCLF provides funds for protecting and restoring Ohio's water bodies by using the interest due on a WPCLF wastewater treatment works loan to pay for a companion project that will improve aquatic habitat. The draft 2003 WPCLF program management plan is being circulated for public comment and will contain proposed funding levels for WRRSP projects to be financed during 2003.

Contact: Bob Monsarrat, (614) 644-3655.

Water Supply Revolving Loan Account

More than \$183 million will be available through June 2003 for low interest loans through this program. Nominations of new projects can be made at any time and will be considered for funding based on availability of funds, priority ranking, and readiness to proceed to construction.

Contact: Bob McDonald, (614) 644-2798.

Clean Watershed Needs Survey

The clean watersheds needs survey (CWNS) provides an inventory of the water quality improvements which have been identified to help meet Clean Water Act goals. The national 2000 CWNS numbers are expected to be released during the first half of 2003. A summary of Ohio's needs will be available during the first quarter of 2003.

Contact: Margaret Klepic, (614) 644-2798.

OFFICE OF POLLUTION PREVENTION

Process Improvement Goals

The Pollution Prevention Quarterly Integration Report concerns the Agency's efforts to integrate pollution prevention into its environmental programs by reducing time and effort needed to collect and report information, minimize the amount of redundant information by excluding items contained in other reports, focusing on activities that occur outside the office, and improving distribution and efficiency. The office also is reviewing its onsite technical assistance activities to improve service to external customers by better coordinating assistance with other parts of the Agency, reducing the amount of time it takes to complete assistance, targeting assistance to the specific needs of each facility and setting clear expectations of what services will be provided and how long a service will take to complete.

Contact: Mike Kelley, (614) 644-2930.

Mercury Reduction Group

This group is a collaborative effort with other Agency divisions and external organizations to coordinate activities to reduce mercury. Group activities include a collection and review of mercury data pertaining to Ohio, assistance with voluntary programs such as thermometer exchanges and assistance with coordinating mercury reduction activities at Ohio EPA.

Contact: Bill Narotski, (614) 728-1264.

National Waste Minimization Partnership Program

The office will work with the Division of Hazardous Waste Management to participate in U.S. EPA's waste minimization partnership program. This voluntary program will assist specific industrial sectors on reducing the amount of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals they generate.

Contact: Mike Kelley, (614) 644-2930.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Process Improvement Goals

The Office of Environmental Education provides approximately \$1 million annually in environmental education grants targeting pre-school through university students and teachers, the general public, and regulated entities. Ohio EPA would like to increase the number of projects funded to help the general public understand environmental issues, and help business and local governments understand and comply with Ohio's environmental laws and regulations. Historically, applications from these entities have not scored as well in competition against K-12 proposals that allow for more creative approaches. A new set of grant application guidelines and score sheets were piloted during winter and summer 2002, tailored for regulated community projects. The results are being evaluated and a new set of application guidelines and score sheets are being developed. The general public application guidelines will be tested during winter and summer 2003. Application forms can be downloaded from the Office of Environmental Education Web page, at www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeeef/oeemain.html.

Contact: Carolyn Watkins, (614) 644-2873.

Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships

The Office of Environmental Education is evaluating the results of a three-year pilot program offering college scholarships to Ohio environmental science and engineering students, administered by the Ohio Academy of Science. The scholarship program is designed to provide incentives for students to complete degree programs and enter the professional field of environmental protection. If the results of this evaluation indicate that the program should be continued, applications will be accepted in April 2003 for the 2003-2004 academic year. Information and criteria is available at www.ohiosci.org.

Contact: Carolyn Watkins, (614) 644-2873.

Outreach to Environmental Educators

The office is completing the seventh year of partnership with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio to promote high quality professional development for teachers and environmental educators in non-formal settings such as parks and soil and water conservation districts. This year the Office of Environmental Education is taking the lead on a new initiative to help social studies teachers develop learning activities incorporating environmental issues.

Contact: Carolyn Watkins, (614) 644-2873.

Future Cities

The office has begun a new collaboration with National Engineers Week, Future City Competition for seventh and eighth grade teams. Students work with an engineer and SimCity3000 software to design a city of the future and build a table top model from recycled materials. Projects are judged on criteria such as environmental friendliness, energy efficiency, and recycled content. OEE will assist in recruiting environmental engineer judges and team mentors. More information is available on the Web at www.futurecity.org.

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