



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

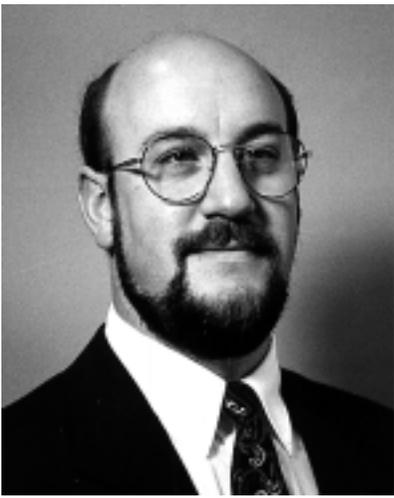
Annual Report

Fiscal Year 1999



MANY FACES  MANY TALENTS  ONE AGENCY

INTRODUCTION



Since I became Ohio EPA's ninth director in January 1999, I have learned a great deal more about how this Agency works and the challenges we face. Environmental regulations have multiplied, and we're involved in more issues than our founders probably imagined possible. I am working to focus the Agency on its core functions, to make sure we are doing the best possible job of carrying out our mandated responsibilities. I am also stressing that we are all one Agency. Although we are a diverse group of people in five districts, one central office, eight divisions, and 10 offices, we'll strive to be consistent in our interpretation and enforcement of environmental laws.

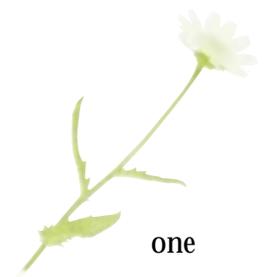
It's hard to put a face on a government agency. Ohio EPA has grown from 230 employees from its first days in 1972, to more than 1,300 today. We've gained experience, learned from each other, and are using our expertise to help

improve Ohio's environment. Even though you may never meet an Ohio EPA employee, we're making sure your drinking water is safe, your garbage is disposed of properly, and your rivers are clean. Ohio EPA employees live in Ohio, raise children here, and care about Ohio's environment — just like you.

This annual report highlights not only the activities and accomplishments of our programs, but also introduces you to some of the people who work hard every day to protect Ohio's environment. You'll see that Ohio EPA is more than a government bureaucracy. We are an organization of skilled people committed to improving Ohio's air, land and water.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Jones
Director



DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

The mission of the Division of Air Pollution Control is to attain and maintain air quality at a level that will protect the environment for the benefit of all. The division partners with nine local air agencies to carry out programs designed to attain and maintain outdoor air quality and protect public health. To measure success, the division monitors five key activities.

Attainment and Maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 authorized U.S. EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards to protect our health and environment. The standards consist of an allowable concentration, and a restriction on the number of times the standard can be exceeded before it is considered a violation. To determine if the air quality meets those standards, Ohio EPA operates air quality monitors. Ohio has 49 monitors in 34 counties to monitor ozone; only two other states have more ozone monitors than Ohio (California and Texas).

In May and June 1999, Ohio EPA monitored 12 readings above the one-hour ozone standard, and more than 200 readings above the eight-hour ozone standard. The

eight-hour standard, adopted in 1997 by U.S. EPA, is currently unenforceable due to a recent federal court decision. Ohio continues to meet the one-hour standard throughout the state.

At the end of 1998, Cincinnati had met the one-hour standard. This is the last urban area in Ohio to meet this air quality standard. Ohio EPA has asked U.S. EPA to formally designate the four-county Cincinnati area as an attainment area for the one-hour ozone standard.

Air Toxics

The division continues to implement air toxic reduction programs required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The Toxic Release Inventory is used to measure the effectiveness of the regulatory and voluntary efforts to reduce air toxics. Ohio facilities reduced toxic air emissions 36.6 percent between 1992 and 1997, from 75.5 million pounds in 1992 to 47.9 million pounds in 1997, according to a report released by Ohio EPA in SFY'99.

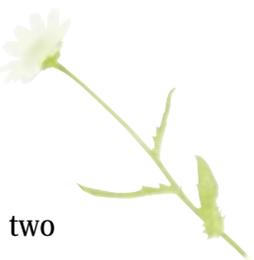
Ohio EPA also conducts specialized air toxic monitoring studies to determine the level of toxic pollution in the air. These can be specialized studies at a particular site, such as the work done in SFY'99 at River Valley High School in Marion County, or can examine air toxics in a large community. The results assist Ohio EPA in determining whether additional control measures are needed.

Issuance of Permits

To measure the quality of services provided, the division monitors the number of permits it issues and the timeliness for issuing permits-to-install (PTIs). In SFY'99, the division issued 1,221 final PTIs; 1,869 permits-to-operate; 180 draft Title V permits; and 110 final Title V permits. The average processing time for PTIs was 134.5 days, and the median number of days for processing PTIs was 79 days. The division is processing Title V permits in accordance with a schedule that will achieve U.S. EPA's goal of issuing all Title V permits by December 2000. Title V permits are required for major sources of air pollution.

Enforcement

The division strives to operate a fair and efficient enforcement program. The effectiveness of the enforcement program is measured by the number of cases resolved, the amount of civil penalties collected, and the overall percentage of Title V facilities that are in compliance. In SFY'99, 128 air enforcement cases were resolved, resulting in the collection of \$3,297,182 in civil penalties. Ninety-three percent of the Title V facilities in Ohio were in compliance with air pollution control regulations. In 1999, at Governor Taft's request, Ohio EPA instituted a program to provide a portion of the penalties collected for tree-planting efforts throughout the state.



DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL, CONT.

	Number of Cases Resolved	Civil Penalty - Cash	Civil Penalty - Credit Projects	Total Amount of Penalties Collected
Ohio EPA	90	\$325,161	\$39,764	\$364,925
Ohio Attorney General's Office	38	\$1,563,823	\$1,368,434	\$2,932,257
Percent of Title V facilities in compliance (June 1999)	93.1%			

MEET FRED KLINGELHAFER

One of Ohio EPA's original employees, Fred Klingelhafer has witnessed many changes in the Division of Air Pollution Control at the Agency's Southeast District Office. Fred transferred from the Ohio Department of Health when most functions of the environmental health division were reassigned to the newly-created Ohio EPA in October 1972.

"It is rewarding to see the growth of the programs through staff expansion with more people to do the job that needs to be done," said Fred, who manages the district's air program. "The Division of Air Pollution Control has grown from a district staff of three or four people, who kept all their files in a two-drawer file cabinet, to 19 employees who monitor air quality, inspect facilities and investigate complaints."

While the staff size has increased, so have the duties of the programs.



In the early days of the agency, one person might have looked at all the environmental issues associated with a facility, according to Fred. "Now," he said, "if a landfill is proposed, the solid waste program looks at the landfill itself while the air program looks at the generation of gas from the landfill and the dust from road travel. We work closely with the other districts and Central Office staff as well with the other divisions in the Southeast District."

E-Check

The E-Check Program oversees the contractor-operated emission inspection program for automobiles in the Cleveland/Akron, Dayton and Cincinnati areas. The division strives to provide a fair and accurate test for motorists, measured by the number of vehicles tested, the pass/fail rates, and the number of damage reports received. In SFY'99, 1,962,126 vehicles were tested, and the average pass rate was 89.33 percent. The average fail rate was 10.66 percent, with 212,449 vehicles failing the test. In the Cleveland and Dayton areas, 308 damage claims were received for damage sustained during the emission test, and 105 of the claims were paid. Damage claim data is not currently available for the Cincinnati area.



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY AND REMEDIAL RESPONSE

The Division of Emergency and Remedial Response is home to a variety of preparedness, prevention and cleanup programs. They include radiation safety; spill prevention, control and countermeasures; site investigations; orphan drum removals; emergency response, remedial response and the Voluntary Action Program.

These programs assist communities and regulated facilities in being prepared to respond to unplanned releases of hazardous substances and petroleum; investigate environmental conditions at sites; respond to emergency releases; and facilitate cleanup of historical hazardous waste releases and disposal sites.

The 1998-99 budget bill called for review of the funding needs and program activities of the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response and the Division of Hazardous Waste Management. This advisory committee, which met from October 1997 through June 1998, included Ohio EPA employees and representatives of industry, environmental organizations and local governments.

The advisory committee considered the following issues:

- securing stable long-term funding for each division;
- determining the appropriate level of federal involvement in state cleanup activities;
- maximizing the efficiency of the Agency's efforts to achieve the goal of cleaning up 400 sites contaminated by hazardous waste by the year 2000; and

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- accomplishing cleanups at sites without viable responsible parties.

The Committee's discussions were framed by the division's long-term funding needs. The division's primary source of state funding for the cleanup program is the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Account. With continued revenue/expenditure levels and management practices, the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Account was expected to show a deficit of \$13,262,934 at the end of SFY'01.

Recognizing the serious nature of this potential deficit, the Agency has been working to address the potential funding shortage through immediate administrative and managerial reforms, many of which were recommended by the advisory committee. The input of the advisory committee members was an asset in Ohio EPA's efforts to shape the future strategic direction of Ohio's cleanup program.

The division made the following changes in May 1999 in response to the budget shortfalls and the advisory committee recommendations:

- The Right-to-Know program is now administered by the chair of the State Emergency Response Commission at Ohio EPA;
- The Spill Prevention Containment and Countermeasures program is still administered within the division, but the district office staff conduct the inspections;
- The Cessation of Regulated Operations program is administered by the Division of Hazardous Waste Management, where district office staff conduct inspections.

"I wanted to thank you and your staff for the support given to the Dayton Regional Hazardous Material Response Team. During chemical accidents and spills, it is a comfort to have them at the scene to guide us in making more intelligent mitigation and remediation decisions. They are always courteous, patient, knowledgeable and resourceful and have earned the respect of the entire fire service community. I can't imagine a more qualified group of any three professionals that would better represent Ohio EPA."

- The PCB program was returned to the federal government for administration.
- Administrative functions of the remaining programs in central office were consolidated and 21 staff were reassigned to other critical vacancies in the agency.

These changes allowed the division to operate within its projected revenues. The program also performed an extensive workload analysis and used this to focus its staff resources on getting existing sites closer to the cleanup phase. Resources also were devoted to developing long-term program, funding and authority for the voluntary action, emergency response and remedial response programs.

DERR Accomplishments — SFY'99

Emergency Response

Emergency releases/spills reported	4848
On-scene responses to reports	1343

Site Investigation Field Unit

Number of site investigations	34
Samples taken	984
Time critical removal referrals	11

Voluntary Action (Cleanup) Program

No Further Action Letters received	37
Covenants Not to Sue issued	19

Cessation of Regulated Operations

Regulated facility inspections	120
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Remedial Response (Cleanup) Program

Sites under orders for cleanup activities	70
Contractor mobilizations for site investigations	8

PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls)

Regulated facility inspections	62
Site cleanup projects	23

Orphan Drum Program

Abandoned orphan drums investigations	129
Removals of orphan (abandoned) drums	82

Spill Prevention, Control & Countermeasure

Inspections	111
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Special Investigations Unit

Number of criminal cases investigated	197
Criminal convictions	5

Right-to-Know

Mailings to regulated facilities	10,985
Local Emergency Planning Committee	
Visits/Presentations	50
Right-to-Know Inspections	23

MEET AMY YERSAVICH

For Amy Yersavich, promoting the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) is a combination of



educational outreach and the training of Ohio EPA employees and certified professionals throughout Ohio. "I supervise a unit that is responsible for shepherding the Voluntary Action Program through technical decision documents, process improvement, setting up databases, working with U.S. EPA, marketing and outreach of the program, and employee and lab training."

In addition to educating the public about the program through fact sheets and newsletters, Amy's responsibilities take her into Ohio's communities for public meetings and program training. "We try to avoid misunderstanding by getting out to people and informing them," Amy said. "We hear what environmental groups have to say, talk to communities and municipalities, and speak to a lot of organizations to incorporate the public's many different opinions."

Compliance Assistance

The division provides compliance assistance primarily through extensive participation in seminars and conferences. The division also sponsored the annual Inland Spills Conference, which provides hands-

on learning for professionals who are involved in emergency response activities. Hundreds of requests are received each year for technical assistance, and the division continues to offer information on its web page.



DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous Waste Permitting Advisory Committee

The committee was convened in June 1997 to provide input to both the division and the Hazardous Waste Facility Board on implementation of the new permit modification rules and the problems and recommendations contained in the 1996 Hazardous Waste Permitting Study. The committee's 1999 meetings focused on issues identified with implementation of the modification rules, dispute resolution mechanisms, the Board's siting criteria review checklist and updates on division and Board activities. The Committee's charter expired on June 30, 1999. The committee's final report can be accessed at the division's web page at www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm or by contacting the division.

Former Eljer Plumbingware Site in Marysville becomes Public Recreational Park

The former Eljer Plumbingware site in Marysville was purchased from Zurn Industries in 1997 by the Industrial Recovery Capital Holdings Company (IRCC). IRCC worked with division staff in the Central District Office to develop and implement a remedial plan to eliminate risks to human health and the environment from the former brass foundry. IRCC collaborated with the City of



Marysville to convert the remediated site to a public recreational park, now known as Eljer Park. The remedial work and construction of the park and its varied recreational amenities were completed in June 1999.

Ohio EPA Encourages Spent Pickle Liquor Recycling

To promote sound recycling of hazardous wastes, Ohio EPA issued four variances from classification as a waste in SFY'99. Two of these variances were issued to iron oxide manufacturers who are using spent pickle liquor from the steel industry to manufacture iron oxide and regenerated pickle liquor that can be reused in the steel-making process. The Division of Hazardous Waste Management continues to support and encourage industry to look for innovative opportunities to recycle hazardous wastes into useful products.

"I wanted to take this time to personally thank you for the assistance you have given to our (dry cleaning) business needs. Each year it is mandatory that we send reports to our corporate office. This year you have saved me many hours by producing the information that you faxed to me. It is nice to see such promptness in any kind of business these days."

Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc.

In March 1999, Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones ordered Envirosafe Services of Ohio to sample every load of electric arc furnace dust to demonstrate it met treatment standards prior to disposal. Ohio EPA also ordered Envirosafe to remove a load of electric arc furnace dust from its hazardous waste landfill based on sample results that indicated the waste was not treated adequately before disposal.



DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT, CONT.

Based on Ohio EPA's review of sampling data collected after the March orders, Envirosafe and Ohio EPA agreed that the company could reduce its sampling frequency to one in every 10 loads under certain circumstances. Envirosafe also agreed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the various stages of its treatment process through a study. The company will be required to use multiple sampling and testing of certain incoming waste loads.

In addition, to address differences between some sample analyses, Envirosafe and Ohio EPA are conducting a comparative laboratory study to determine what variables might have caused differences in laboratory results in the past. This study will also help develop protocols to avoid such differences in the future.

After the studies are completed, the company will submit a request for a permit modification which would contain a new sampling program for treated waste, and could include, if necessary, quality assurance protocols for the treatment process.

The division continues to work with concerned citizens, the City of Oregon, Lucas County and the Attorney General's Office to make sure that all parties' concerns are addressed.

MEET DEBBIE SHARPE

Since joining the Agency in January 1985, Debbie Sharpe has witnessed the passing of new environmental laws, modifications in the Agency's permitting processes and changes in Ohio EPA's structure. A secretary in the hazardous waste division, Debbie has continued her efforts to streamline the division's processing of permits.

"The job itself continues to evolve, and every day is different. I never know what is going to come to my desk to be issued," Debbie said. "I am involved in that final step in the permitting process—the public noticing of permits, distributing information to companies and the Agency's districts, and reproducing the records of the permits.



We have many projects going on at the same time. Every action has to be public noticed, it has to go out to the newspaper in that county, and issues that arise from public meetings must be resolved. We need to keep the district offices involved in the permits we issue and the public informed. Part of that is being able to just listen for a couple of minutes to see what it is they really want and if I can provide that level of assistance."



DIVISION OF SOLID AND INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Partnership/Outreach

The division issued 24 guidance documents/fact sheets; offered 21 regulatory training sessions; participated in 4,800 technical assistance meetings/site visits and counted 147,562 visits to its web page. The division continued monitoring existing relationships and embarked on establishing new ones.

Health Departments

The division continued to regularly meet with representatives of the Ohio Environmental Health Association to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Planning Districts

The division initiated regular meetings with representatives of solid waste management districts to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Other State Agencies/ U.S. EPA

The division, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America conducted a 10-month project that provided education and technical assistance regarding pay-as-you-throw garbage collection programs to municipal representatives, waste haulers, and solid waste

professionals in Ohio. The program is designed to encourage recycling and waste reduction practices. It was funded through a grant from U.S. EPA and resulted in four workshops held around the state last spring. The workshops were attended by 81 individuals. Lisa Skumatz, a nationally-recognized expert on pay-as-you-throw programs, served as the trainer and facilitator.

Other States

The division began participating in the Mid-Atlantic States Waste Caucus. The group includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio. This caucus is designed to share information and discuss a broad range of interstate waste issues. One of the discussion topics is disposal destinations for New York's waste when Fresh Kills Landfill closes in 2001. While Ohio's receipt of out-of-state waste (1.4 million tons in 1997) has not fluctuated significantly in the past several years, the division continued to evaluate and monitor waste receipts, other states' actions, and legislative efforts. The caucus also coordinated a three-day, multi-state vehicle safety inspection event, where states simultaneously conducted safety and regulatory inspections. The division coordinated with the State Highway Patrol. No substantial problems were found in Ohio.

Inter-Agency

Landfill slope failures know no regulatory boundaries and have affected sites regulated by all three

"Please accept this letter of thanks for all the efforts you and your Agency have given us in our work with the local landfill.

Because of your efforts, we were able to ensure the safety of our citizens and protect the local environment. The professionalism displayed by Ohio EPA has impressed me greatly, and it is sincerely appreciated."

of Ohio EPA's waste programs. The division assisted others in the Agency on six slope projects, and took the lead on behalf of the Agency to organize an engineering team to better respond to slope stability issues. The team's function is to provide technical assistance to Ohio EPA's inspectors and engineers, and to promote statewide consistency among the waste programs in preventing and responding to slides. The team completed more than 60 hours of intensive slope stability training. In addition, the division continues to contract with a professional expert in slope stability to assist the technical team, when needed.

Organizations

The division co-sponsored the BIOCYCLE Northeast-Midwest Conference '98 on Composting and Recycling, enabling division personnel to interact directly with composters, representatives of academia, and compost equipment manufacturers in an educational atmosphere.

The division continues to actively participate in the Ohio Composting and Manure



DIVISION OF SOLID AND INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT, CONT.

Management Program, a group consisting of representatives from farming, compost producers, trade associations, equipment manufacturers, academia, and various state agencies, whose current purpose is to educate regarding beneficial manure management practices.

State Plan Reviewed

In June 1998, the division completed a progress report on the State Solid Waste Management Plan. Every three years, Ohio EPA, in conjunction with the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council, is required to review the progress made toward achieving the goals set forth in the most recent state plan. Based on this review, the advisory council concluded that considerable progress has been made in some areas — such as the regulation and cleanup of scrap tires — while very limited achievement has been made in other areas, like source reduction measurement. The division and advisory council will continue to gather data to evaluate the progress, effectiveness, and appropriateness of the state plan goals in preparation for revisions to the plan in 2001.

Scrap Tire Cleanups Continue

During SFY'99, the state-funded scrap tire cleanup program finished tire removals at four sites in Summit, Mahoning, Coshocton and Lawrence Counties. A total of 3.8 million passenger tire equivalents were removed. A passenger tire equivalent equals 20 pounds of tire material. When combined with the SFY'98 effort, a total of 7.7 million passenger tire equivalents at five

sites (Clark Co. in SFY'98) have been cleaned up with state funding since the scrap tire program began.

A contract for a sixth site was awarded and removal of tires will begin in SFY'00 at Kirbys' Tire Recycling, Inc. This site, located in Wyandot County, contains an estimated 16 to 20 million scrap tires on about 110 acres. This site is the largest accumulation of scrap tires in Ohio and one of the largest nationwide. As a result of the division's enforcement case with Kirbys' Tire, in cooperation with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Wyandot County Court ordered the Kirbys to stop accepting scrap tires. Kirbys' Tire failed to comply with the director's abatement orders to remove the scrap tires, so Ohio EPA initiated cleanup. The Kirby enforcement case remains pending before the Wyandot County Court. Ongoing inspections continue by the division and Wyandot County Health Department.

Continued Improvements

Work continued behind the scenes on the division's relational database, SIIMAN. Project completion is anticipated in SFY'00.

The average pending time for escalated enforcement resolution improved in SFY'99 from 481 days to 361 days for Agency cases, and from 1,056 days to 782 days for cases at the Attorney General's Office.

Rules

Review of the infectious waste and transfer facility rules was completed. Progress was made on composting rules, which will be completed in SFY'00. Significant behind-the-scenes work was done to meet the review requirements of the waste characterization, ground water, siting/design, and scrap tire rules.

MEET SUPORA JOHNSON

As the main receptionist in the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Supora Johnson is often the first person to greet Ohio EPA staff at the beginning of the workday. "I keep track of who's working in the office and who is out in meetings that day. I schedule conference rooms, provide information to the public, give callers contact information, direct them to the employee they need to speak to and send out the information they need. I am the contact person on our division's Web site; so I am usually the first person the public contacts in our division," she explained.



After only one year at the Agency, Supora's early-morning enthusiasm has earned her a widely recognized nickname. "Because I'm a 'people-person' who speaks to everyone coming into our office in the morning, our staff started calling me 'Sunshine,' and now everybody uses it," Supora said.

The *Ohio Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program* was finalized after extensive public input and approved by U.S. EPA in May 1999. The SWAP Program protects the health of people using public drinking water and preserves Ohio's water resources for future generations by protecting waters being used as the source of public drinking water.

The division continued to implement the Ohio Wellhead Protection Program. The division reviewed 71 components of local protection plans from 40 communities. Twenty-one communities have fully approved programs in place to protect the source of their public drinking water.

The division issued its first loans through the Water System Revolving Loan Account in SFY'99. This program enables Ohio EPA to provide low-interest loans to eligible public water systems for infrastructure improvements. Approximately \$68 million is available for the current program

year to loan. More than 170 projects are on a project priority list, with a total estimated need of approximately \$310 million.

Loans were made to the following public water systems in SFY'99:

Claridon/Geauga County	\$ 101,600.00
Mendon	\$ 242,067.00
Painesville	\$1,700,423.73
Kenton	\$ 104,867.32
McComb	\$1,367,130.00
Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer	\$ 88,770.00
Baker School-Matthews Board of Education	\$ 85,500.00

In SFY'99, the division reviewed 1,637 sets of plans from public water systems, averaging a total approval time of 66.4 days, including the time required for applicants to correct deficiencies. The division also conducted inspections at 2,982 public water systems in SFY'99. Source water designations were completed at 1,997 public water systems. The Ground Water Program continues to work on improving quality and efficiency in its assistance to other Ohio EPA divisions and programs. In SFY'99, the Ground Water Program completed 3,854 projects; approximately 81 percent were completed within performance standards.

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program regulates active Class I and Class V injection wells. Class I wells are used to inject fluids (hazardous and non-hazardous) beneath the lowermost formation

containing, within one-quarter mile of the well bore, an underground source of drinking water. Class V wells are used to inject non-hazardous fluids that do not meet the definitions for Class I, II, III or IV wells. Class V UIC wells are usually used to inject non-hazardous fluids not derived from the production of oil or not being used in solution mining into or above an underground source of drinking water.

"Your agency is to be commended on the efforts made in development of this exemplary SWAP Program. It is one of the best source water programs in the country. Your SWAP Program strongly ties an ambitious assessment program to protection activities in order to further protect Ohio's drinking water resources. Your submittal describes an excellent approach to efficiently and effectively assess more than 6,100 public water systems in the State. In addition, you and your staff have made outstanding efforts to involve the public and stakeholders in the SWAP development process."

— U.S. EPA

In addition to inspections, the UIC Program reviewed 436 plans and reports; 99 percent were completed within specified performance standards.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require Ohio EPA to adopt a number of new rules. Workgroups were established to help develop these rules. The Capability Assurance Plan and Administrative Rule Package was completed. Work was also started on Consumer Confidence Reports; Stage 1 Disinfection/Disinfection By-products, Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules, and the Disadvantaged Community Rules. These rules are intended

DIVISION OF DRINKING AND GROUND WATERS, CONT.

to provide more information to consumers and increased protection from microbial pathogens and disinfection byproducts. The total coliform rules, operator certification rules and laboratory certification rule revisions became effective during the fiscal year.

To assist transient water systems, the division initiated a series of compliance assistance workshops. Transient public water systems serve 25 or more people, or at least 15 service connections, 60 days a year. They include churches, campgrounds and roadside rests. By participating in the training, co-sponsored by U.S. EPA, these systems avoided enforcement actions. The water systems signed a

personalized bilateral compliance agreement with deadline dates for returning to compliance.

The division continues to emphasize the importance of providing information to the public. The division's web pages have been expanded to provide greater access to information. Improved geographic information management capabilities allow the division to generate a variety of maps showing information on Ohio's public water systems and the quality of the State's ground waters.

Development of the division's new information management system continued. DRINK will replace various independent tracking programs used to store public

water system and ground water quality information. In addition, DRINKware was developed to enable the electronic submission of water quality monitoring results received from Ohio EPA certified laboratories and monthly operating reports submitted by public water systems.

In March, the division completed a four-year study of pesticides in the water of public water systems using surface water. The study identified systems that are affected by seasonal pesticide runoff. These systems are now required to sample and analyze the quality of their water more frequently. A one-day seminar was held for affected systems to discuss the study and source water protection activities.

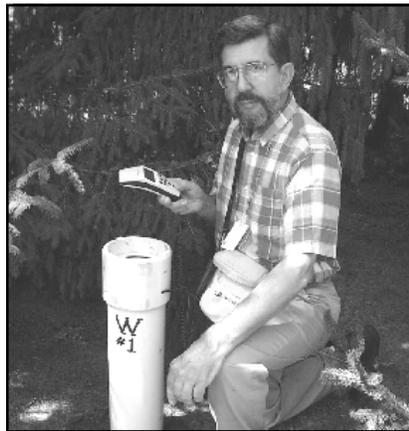
Six public water systems were given the Outstanding Public Water System Award to recognize superior achievement in drinking water treatment. The winning systems were Springfield, Lancaster, Oberlin, Wellington, Lake County East Water Subdistrict and Miller Brewing Company.

Members of the division's Statistical Issues Workgroup received the Quality Innovator award from Governor Bob Taft during Public Service Recognition Week in May. The division chartered the workgroup as part of its efforts to maintain a consistent and coordinated approach to technical issues affecting ground water protection in Ohio.

MEET DICK McCLISH

After working at his own computer mapping and consulting company, Dick McClish joined Ohio EPA in 1990 to launch the Agency's geographic information system (GIS) in support of Ohio's new wellhead protection program. Dick provides data in response to questions from the technical community, interest groups and students. He conducts training sessions for Ohio EPA staff and works closely with the Agency's other divisions on related projects.

"GIS is a tool that can change the way government does business," Dick said. "As science becomes more specialized, the visualization that GIS provides can bring things together. The old interagency barriers eventually break down and disappear. GIS is a tool that explains data in relation to other data, maps or tables, and



not one individual can generate all the needed data. In this way, GIS forces interdependence and brings state government agencies even closer together. When you approach everything you do with team effort and a win-win attitude, everyone has something to gain."



DIVISION OF SURFACE WATER

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The division had two major accomplishments related to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. A TMDL looks at all sources that contribute to water quality problems in a defined area and identifies the actions needed to restore and protect an impaired water. TMDLs are required by the Clean Water Act.

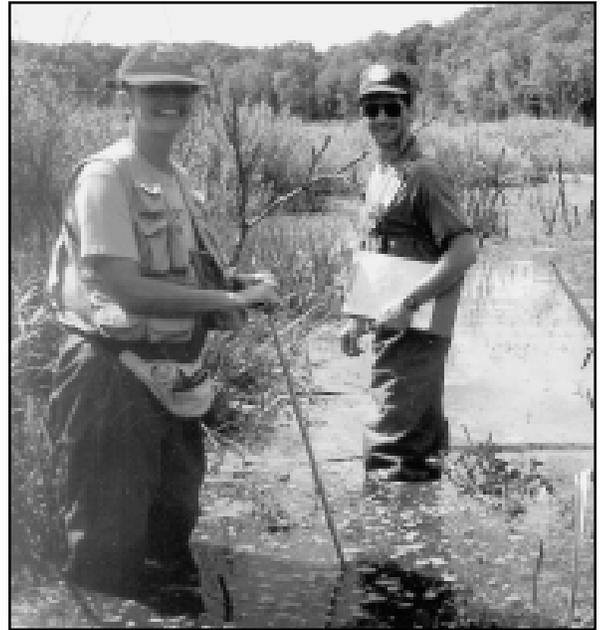
First, the division completed the list of impaired waters — known as the 303(d) list after the relevant section of the federal Clean Water Act. Ohio's 1998 list indicated that 881 of 5,000 water body segments are impaired or threatened. Of the 326 watersheds in Ohio, 276 contain at least one listed segment. The list also included a schedule for completion of TMDLs for all impaired waters in Ohio by 2013.

Second, substantial progress was made on TMDL projects. The Middle Cuyahoga River TMDL was finalized in May, a process that involved extensive local outreach to potentially impacted communities in the Akron-Kent-Ravenna area. The final report is due to U.S. EPA by September 30, 1999. TMDLs are in progress in other areas. Mill Creek (Cincinnati), Sugar Creek; Upper Little Miami River, and Rocky River are to be completed in late 2000. The upper Stillwater River, Bokes Creek, Mill Creek

(Marysville), and Raccoon Creek TMDLs are to be completed in 2001.

Surface Water Information Management System (SWIMS)

After several years in development, the Division of Surface Water implemented its new information management system. This system, called SWIMS, was developed to improve the division's management of information, increase efficiency of the permit programs, and replace existing surface water data systems that were not Y2K compliant. SWIMS automates development of installation and discharge permits; tracks permit compliance; and automates portions of enforcement actions. In April 1999, the discharge permit portion of this system was implemented. Companion software to SWIMS, called SWIMware, was developed at the same time for the division's customers. SWIMware contains surface water-related permit applications and periodic reporting forms that can be completed and submitted electronically. SWIMware was initially distributed in December 1998, and the division began accepting data submitted electronically via SWIMware in January 1999. More than 1,000 copies of SWIMware have been distributed.



"In December, U.S. EPA participated in an on-site assistance diagnostic evaluation at the Vermillion wastewater treatment plant, being led by Ohio EPA's compliance assistance unit. U.S. EPA was participating to assist, learn from and support Ohio EPA at improving the performance of the facility. Ohio EPA not only helped the community with clarifier improvements, they helped train U.S. EPA employees. Ohio EPA demonstrated that they are one of the premier on-site technical assistance training teams in the nation."

-U.S. EPA



DIVISION OF SURFACE WATER, CONT.

Wetlands

Before someone can dredge or fill in a state waterway, the Clean Water Act requires that they obtain a Section 401 certification from Ohio EPA, then a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Despite an increased number of Section 401 water quality certification applications submitted to the division in SFY'99, review times were reduced by 50 percent.

Draft certifications were proposed for six activity-specific Nationwide Permits to replace the Nationwide Permit 26, and to modify six other NWP's that were proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A Wetland Rapid Assessment Method was developed in consultation with an external advisory group to allow consistent and rapid assessment of wetland quality. This method will aid greatly in the review of Section 401 water quality certifications.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program

The division issued a new general permit for small sanitary dischargers — up to 25,000 gallon per day — providing a streamlined permit process for these facilities. Facilities that meet the requirements notify Ohio EPA and automatically receive a permit without having to go through an individual review.

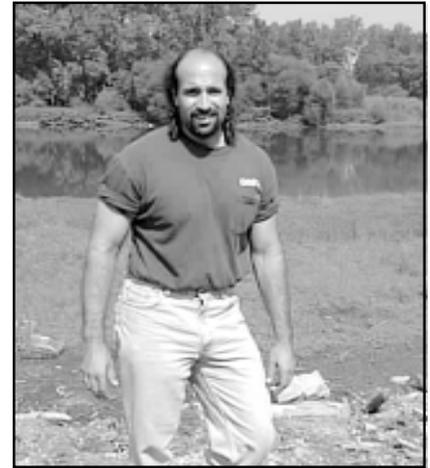
Staff worked with publicly-owned wastewater plant manager to develop a guidance document that the regulated community and Ohio EPA can use to develop and review Pollutant Minimization Program Plans and updates. In addition, the

division worked with the regulated community to produce guidance that maximizes the flexibility of the Great Lakes Initiative rules and deals with questions most often raised by the regulated community.

Meet Harry Kallipolitis

Coordinating more than 500 storm water inspections annually, Harry Kallipolitis ensures that people meet permit requirements and maintain runoff control during site development. Harry is the storm water coordinator at Ohio EPA's Central District Office.

"Certain industrial and construction activities need a permit authorizing their release of storm water," Harry said. "Part of my job is conducting inspections to make sure they are implementing best management practices to minimize threats to surface water. Storm water from agricultural and industrial runoff is one of the biggest threats to Ohio's streams." Harry also responds to complaints and leads workshops for local watershed groups.



Harry joined Ohio EPA in January 1993, shortly after Ohio EPA adopted the federal storm water rules. Previously, he had worked at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, where he also addressed storm water issues.



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Division further expanded the accomplishments of the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) in providing resources to improve surface and ground water quality. During SFY'99, \$137 million was loaned for traditional and nontraditional projects to help achieve the Agency's water quality goals. The WPCLF continued to use its resources in a number of innovative ways to provide financing for nonpoint source water pollution controls, to both public and private borrowers.

For example, during SFY'99, the division developed and implemented a new rural hardship grant program. This program is providing more than \$2.3 million in financing to homeowners in qualifying rural areas for replacing failed home septic systems. The funding, which has gone to eligible counties, comes from federally derived grants, state matching monies from the Ohio Department of Development's Community Development Block Grant program, and WPCLF loans. Ohio EPA was nationally innovative with this one-time appropriation of federal funds, targeting grants and loans to under-served areas where upgrading on-lot treatment systems was the best solution to address failing septic systems.

The WPCLF has also improved financing opportunities for small communities by offering an additional discount on standard interest rate loans to all systems with a population 5,000 or fewer.

The WPCLF continued its progress in supporting solutions to nonpoint source

Summary of WPCLF Financial Assistance Activity During SFY'99

Project Type	Number of Loans	Total Loan Amount
Municipal Wastewater Systems *	47	\$133,020,109.15
Linked Deposits	40	\$1,018,787
Rural Hardship Loans	3	\$162,600
Brownfields	5	\$2,873,540
Nature Conservancy Easements	2	\$156,000
Totals	97	\$137,231,036.15

* Includes 10 small projects for \$11,407,102; six 2% hardship projects for \$2,076,538.50; and 31 standard projects for \$119,536,468.65.

impairment in SFY'99 by assisting a variety of projects, including agricultural pollution controls; septic system replacement through its linked deposit loan program; matching loans for the rural hardship grants; brownfield remediation; and two loans to The Nature Conservancy to continue the purchase of conservation

easements in the Ohio Brush Creek watershed.

In addition to small communities and nonpoint sources, the WPCLF still serves Ohio's municipal wastewater treatment needs, with approximately 97 percent of the \$137.23 million in loans provided last year going to municipal treatment system construction.

MEET SHARON WILLIAMSON

Sharon Williamson, an Ohio EPA employee since May 1979, works in the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance to provide funding for water quality improvement projects throughout Ohio. In addition to community response and loan application assistance, Sharon coordinates the involvement of the Agency's districts in a particular community's activities.

"I coordinate projects under the Water Supply Loan Fund, Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, Village Capital Improvement Fund and the Community Assistance Loan Program," Sharon said. "We provide support and funding at below-market rates, and I feel good about the fact that we are helping people to improve the environment. I like meeting people personally to place faces with names," Sharon said. "The really small communities are what I enjoy. Although much of the marketing of our various loan programs is through the mail, I like to be personally involved when I can."



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

In SFY'99, the Division of Environmental Services (DES) received and processed 9,714 samples, 108 percent of its goal of 9,000 samples. Samples covered a variety of matrices, including water, drinking water, soil, sediment, air canister, air filter, fish tissue, and turtle tissue. DES also conducted 149 bioassays (toxicity tests).

The lab received samples from 470 sites for the fish tissue consumption program's SFY'99 collection cycle, and from 52 sites for the SFY'00 collection cycle. Samples are analyzed for arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, selenium, pesticides and PCBs. At the end of the fiscal year, samples had been collected from 3,052 sites (one stream location can have multiple

sampling sites). Analysis was completed on samples for 2,975 of those sites.

To support the Agency's Voluntary Action Program (VAP), DES staff reviewed 63 separate laboratory documents for the VAP lab certification program, audited two laboratories and certified 18 laboratories. Since this brownfields cleanup program is heavily reliant on the private sector, it is critical that laboratories performing work under the VAP meet specified standards.

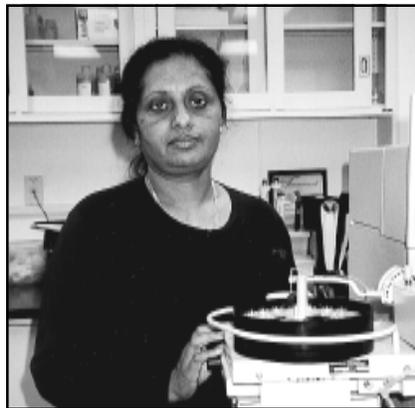
In addition, DES staff conducted 331 chemistry drinking water lab surveys (161 percent of the goal) and 136 microbiology drinking water lab surveys (119 percent of the goal).

DES staff responded to 3,021 technical assistance requests from individuals outside Ohio EPA, all but three within five working days. DES staff also responded to 2,291 technical assistance requests from Ohio EPA staff on methods, data interpretations, sampling requirements, sample scheduling, and other laboratories' performance. All but two of those requests were handled within five working days.

MEET RAJI SHANKAR

Raji Shankar spends much of her time in the lab examining environmental samples for trace metals including arsenic, selenium, lead and cadmium. On an average day, she analyzes 60 to 75 samples from air filters, sediments, fish tissue, drinking water, and surface water samples collected by field staff from other Ohio EPA divisions. In SFY'99, Raji had hands-on analytical involvement in about two-thirds of the samples that were brought to the lab.

"When we receive samples that are involved with sites that are of great public concern, it is rewarding to see the results from my perspective," Raji said. "The hardest part is when you must depend on the instruments and pass all of the quality controls needed to stand behind your results, but we really help each other out. The people I work with are a very nice cross-section of



different countries, cultures and accents."

Raji, an Ohio EPA employee since 1994, completed her master's degree in inorganic chemistry at the Central College in Bangalore, India, before relocating to the United States. Before joining the Agency as a chemist, Raji worked at the Ohio Department of Health's inorganic chemistry section, where she was responsible for water purity testing.



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Office of Environmental Education administers the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF), established by the General Assembly in 1990 to enhance public awareness and understanding of issues affecting environmental quality. Funding comes from half of the civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA's air and water pollution control programs. The OEEF has provided more than \$8 million to over 300 organizations, for projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public, and regulated community audiences.

In 1999, the OEEF awarded 27 grants totaling \$1,028,427.05. Examples of work funded by the OEEF include the following:

- Junior and senior high school students are getting their feet wet in a variety of stream sampling and water quality monitoring projects in Cuyahoga, Hancock, and Trumbull Counties.
- Land laboratories and nature study centers are being equipped for students and teachers to use in Athens, Hamilton, Lawrence, and Perry Counties. These outdoor education classrooms help acquaint students with indigenous species, habitats, and ecosystems, and help teachers integrate environmental science into the curriculum.



Tom Yersavich, Office of Environmental Education, helps fifth graders from South Eastern Elementary School in Bellefontaine study water samples taken with the Indian Lake Watershed Project.

- The Lucas County Emergency Planning Committee is educating 30,000 to 50,000 local residents and local media about toxic and flammable chemicals used or manufactured in the county. They will teach about measures in place to minimize the potential and severity of chemical accidents, and response procedures if a release should occur.
- Automotive service, collision and transmission repair businesses statewide will get help complying with regulations pertaining to air and water pollution control, and management of solid and hazardous waste. In addition, a video showcasing pollution prevention success stories in automotive and equipment repair shops will be distributed through trade associations and to high school and adult education vehicle repair programs.
- A number of projects offer teacher training. Miami University is training 160 elementary teachers on the ecology and natural history of southwestern Ohio. Cleveland State

University is training middle school teachers to use the urban environment in Cuyahoga and Lorain County classrooms. The Ohio Department of Health is teaching middle school science teachers and curriculum advisors in 10 central Ohio counties about indoor air quality. The Ohio Energy Project and the Clean Air Conservancy received grants to teach students and teachers about energy use and electricity. Wright State University and the Stark County Educational Service Center are training K-12 teachers in southwest Ohio and Stark County to participate in an international program where students monitor local atmospheric, climate, land cover, hydrology and soil conditions, then post data into a global database for comparison with satellite data.

- Four separate projects are providing outdoor environmental science programs to more than 2,200 inner-city and economically disadvantaged students in Franklin, Jackson and Mahoning Counties.



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CONT.

This year, the office partnered with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, the Ohio Departments of Education and Natural Resources, dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals, to complete a strategic plan for environmental education in Ohio. U.S. EPA provided funding to imple-

ment some components of the plan.

To implement some of the recommendations of the 1994-98 *Ohio Comparative Risk Project*, environmental and grant-writing workshops are being offered to low-income and minority audiences. The Office of Environmental

Education also coordinates Ohio EPA's Adopt-A-School Program and the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research, presented at to students at State Science Day.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO) experienced continued growth since it opened in 1996 to assist small businesses in Central Ohio better comply with environmental regulations. In SFY 99, the office received 560 calls; more than 1,400 compliance assistance requests have been received since the office opened.

The calls came from a diverse group of businesses, including contractors, auto service companies, dry cleaners, printers, manufacturing companies and others. Many were multimedia calls (covering several program areas like air, waste and water), reflecting the unique challenges that small business owners face in understanding and keeping up with environmental regulations. The SBAO also

conducted 12 on-site compliance visits during the year.

In addition, the office distributed its quarterly newsletter, *The Small Business Resource*, to approximately 4,000 small businesses in Central Ohio. The newsletter is a way for the SBAO to actively reach businesses with information about environmental regulations. The SBAO developed other written compliance resources, including an *Environmental Self Assessment Guide*. This guide can be used by small business owners to complete a self-check of their compliance with environmental regulations. This resource is a popular compliance tool, with more than 3,700 copies distributed to date.

During SFY 99, the SBAO started conducting environmental compliance workshops for businesses. Small businesses owners can learn more about how to prepare for an Ohio EPA inspection or get an overview of Ohio's hazardous waste regulations. The office plans to put more emphasis on workshops in the coming year.

Additional goals for the coming year include developing other compliance assistance resources. It is hoped that the continued success of the SBAO during the coming year will be the catalyst for program expansion to other areas of the state.



OFFICE OF POLLUTION PREVENTION

Regulatory Integration

In SFY'99, the Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP) spearheaded an effort to integrate pollution prevention into all Agency programs. With support from OPP, each of Ohio EPA's major divisions established a team that will enable the Agency to more effectively encourage and educate companies on the economic and environmental benefits of pollution prevention in their inspection, enforcement and permitting processes. The Division of Hazardous Waste Management has already completed a pollution prevention strategy. Its goal is to reduce pollution generated by hazardous waste generators by helping them identify pollution prevention opportunities and implement pollution prevention practices.

OPP also began developing quantitative goals for incorporating pollution prevention into permitting, inspections, compliance assistance and rules and policies, similar to the existing goal for incorporating pollution prevention into enforcement settlements. Ohio is recognized as a national leader in incorporating pollution prevention into environmental enforcement settlements where a portion of an enforcement penalty is reduced in exchange for completing some type of pollution prevention activity. Ohio has incorporated pollution prevention into 76 enforcement settlements to date, including six in SFY'99. The Agency's goal is to increase the number of settlements containing pollution prevention from nine percent to 18 percent by 2001.

eighteen

Technical Assistance

In SFY'99, OPP helped more than 400 Ohio businesses and provided technical assistance to more than 350 companies, organizations, and/or individuals. This includes 23 site visits to help Ohio companies implement pollution prevention programs and nearly 60 presentations and training events to help educate Ohio businesses and organizations about pollution prevention. Ohio's pollution prevention Internet site has been acknowledged by U.S. EPA and others as one of the best sites in the nation to obtain practical pollution prevention information. External parties visit the site nearly 1,000 times each month.

Voluntary Planning

Ohio Prevention First is a voluntary program through which facilities are encouraged to reduce waste. The overall goal is to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the amount of pollution generated throughout Ohio by 2000. The program encourages participants to develop a pollution prevention plan, implement it, and report on progress. Eighty-six of the 1994 "Top 100" TRI reporting facilities have committed to this effort. Overall, the 167 participating Ohio companies have reduced more than 3.8 billion pounds of pollution and saved more than \$180 million in the process.

Loan Program

The Ohio Pollution Prevention Loan Program provides low interest loans for the completion of pollution prevention activities at small and medium-sized facilities in Ohio. More than 25 loans have been awarded, including five in SFY'99,

for projects that will result in prevention of 5.7 million pounds of pollution and 14 million gallons of wastewater. In addition, 100 million pounds of pollution and 27 million gallons of wastewater will be recycled.

MEET ANDREA FUTRELL

When the Office of Pollution Prevention formed at Ohio EPA's Central Office, Andrea



Futrell transferred to the new office to train businesses, agencies and Ohio EPA staff in methods to prevent the creation of waste. Andrea had worked in the northeast district as a hazardous waste inspector since February 1988.

"If a business has a regulatory compliance problem and not necessarily an enforcement issue, that division calls us and asks us if there is anything we can do," Andrea said. "We do so many different things in the Office of Pollution Prevention. From regulatory integration to technical assistance, we assist businesses and show them how not to create waste. We teach them techniques that we use to observe processes. We don't want to be only solution givers. We want to be facilitators to help them help themselves."

Away from Ohio EPA, Andrea and her husband devote their time to the original exploration and mapping of underground caverns.

The Office of Federal Facilities Oversight (OFFO), located in the Southwest District Office, works to achieve the cleanup and reuse of federal facilities in Ohio.

Cleanup activities continued at a rapid rate at the Department of Energy (DOE) Fernald site with the completion of the Safe Shutdown Program in March 1999. Two plants were demolished. Significant cleanup progress occurred in the southfield area of the site when contaminated soil was excavated and placed in the onsite disposal facility. Fernald began railroad shipments of contaminated soils through the waste pits project to the Envirocare disposal site in Utah. A significant stakeholder effort is ongoing to determine the future use of the site following cleanup.

Significant cleanup and reuse progress occurred at the DOE Mound site with the transfer of the first property to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation. This parcel was transferred in March at a ceremony attended by Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones and Department of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. The majority of the work was also completed on another parcel, which was scheduled to transfer in July 1999. Buildings continue to be demolished or evaluated for safety and reused. Several soil removals for thorium and plutonium occurred during the past year.

Probably the biggest change in the Federal Facility Program in recent years has been the large increase in work related to the Department of Defense (DOD) Formerly Used Defense (FUD) site program. The most well-known FUD site is the Marion Engineering Depot (River Valley Schools). However, in March, OFFO coordinated a survey of all 86 FUD sites in Ohio to determine if school or school-related activities were occurring at these sites. Ohio EPA found

11 FUD sites where school activities were occurring; additional historical research and walkover surveys began in June by Ohio EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Cleanup work continued at other federal facilities in Ohio, including Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Gentile Air Force Station. OFFO provided technical and administrative support to federal facilities throughout the state.

MEET BONNIE BUTHKER

At Ohio EPA's southwest district, Bonnie Buthker supervises site coordinators who oversee remediation at Department of Defense (DOD) sites. She coordinates the oversight of these sites statewide, and manages the grants that fund the program.

When the Office of Federal Facilities Oversight was created in 1994, Bonnie's experience as a site coordinator for the Wright Patterson Air Force base made her well suited for the new office. Bonnie works closely with the federal government, community leaders and citizens, in an effort to build trust through public involvement.

"Because DOD sites are often secured and fenced areas, citizens cannot witness the cleanup process," Bonnie said. "There is a big trust issue that is necessary with the community. We work very closely with the citizens of Ohio to get them involved very early on during site investigations."



In May 1999, Bonnie received the national Hammer Award in Washington D.C. from the National Partnership for Reinventing Government. She was honored for her teamwork in devising new and interactive improvements to enhance the exchange between state agencies and the Department of Defense.

DISTRICT OFFICES

Central District Office

Remediation activities were completed at the Hershberger Landfill in September. This 15-acre site in Union County operated as a solid waste landfill from 1970 to 1976 accepting domestic and industrial waste. Ohio EPA ordered the facility to close in 1976 due to leachate problems. Several companies that used the landfill for waste disposal later agreed to investigate the nature and extent of contamination and assess cleanup options. Remediation activities completed in 1998 included the following: leachate collection and disposal at a publicly owned sewage treatment plant; landfill cap repair and vegetation; a landfill gas management plan; ground water monitoring; and institutional and engineering controls including a fence and signs.

By providing operational assistance, district staff enabled the City of Heath to meet discharge limits at its wastewater treatment plant. Once the problem was identified as industrial users, the city strengthened its pretreatment program, industrial users paid the costs incurred by the treatment plant, the city returned to compliance and Ohio EPA was able to avoid enforcement action.

In the drinking water program, the district surveyed 600 public water systems, far exceeding the goal of 189. They also provided unique assistance to two water system operators who requested assistance in preparing for the water operator certification test. By

MEET FRED MYERS

As a site coordinator for the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response in the Central District Office, Fred Myers ensures that contaminated sites are prioritized and cleaned up in accordance with approved plans.

“No two sites are the same, and they must be addressed in different ways,” Fred said. “I like the flexibility that is necessary when responding to these sites. These places may have been a concern for many years. When my division was formed in 1989, it became the Agency’s mechanism to deal with these sites. It’s gratifying to know that these sites are being addressed after they have been sitting around as a blemish on a community.”



passing the test, they now have enhanced qualifications which should translate into a better operated water system.

The air program improved processing time for permits to install from 47 days to 34 days; reduced the permit backlog from 64 to 51; increased the number of facility inspections from 117 to 150; and increased the number of complaint investigations from 309 to 362.

Southwest District Office

Southwest District Office staff responded to both environmental and weather emergencies as they arose throughout the year. Environmental incidents included fires at the Shriber tire site in Dayton and the Crow Collier Building in Springfield, as well as numerous spills and transportation incidents. Weather emergencies included the flooding in January 1999 and the tornados that hit Hamilton and Clinton counties in April 1999. In such incidents, the goal is to

minimize environmental damage and expedite cleanup.

There were numerous projects where several district programs worked together to solve problems affecting more than one environmental media. These included investigation and enforcement activities at AK Steel; investigations of threats to the water supplies at Ripley, Middletown, Enon and Urbana; and pollution prevention efforts in a regional local government collaborative.

Outreach and partnering efforts helped to maximize the impact of district programs. The district sponsored or participated in a variety of public outreach events. Highlights included the Dayton Water Festival, Healthy People Healthy Planet Expo, several water festivals and a number of Earth Day events. Staff were active in many partnering initiatives, serving on boards or committees to solve local environmental problems and promoting innovative approaches to environmental monitoring and assessment.

DISTRICT OFFICES, CONT.

Four projects were selected to receive funds pursuant to the 1997 Rumpke Landfill settlement. Money was given to: the Adams County Health Department to clean up five open dumps; the Cincinnati Fire Department Environmental Crimes Unit for detection and surveillance equipment; the Mill Creek Restoration Project for an environmental education school program; and the Village of Cedarville for capping and ground water monitoring at its closed landfill.

Northwest District Office

1998 was a landmark year along the Ottawa River. Approximately 15,000 tons of PCB-contaminated sediment were removed from the unnamed tributary. This \$5 million project was accomplished through a partnership of Ohio EPA, Toledo, U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and GenCorp. In addition, a group of industrial users, the City of Toledo, U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA successfully capped the Stickney and Tyler Street landfills and stabilized the riverbanks. The landfills had been leaching contamination in the Ottawa River. Progress also was made on a cleanup plan for Dura Avenue Landfill.

Envirosafe operates Ohio's only commercial hazardous waste landfill. In June 1999, Ohio EPA became aware of a possible inadequacy in the facility's treatment of a certain kind of hazardous prior to land disposal. Ohio EPA required the company to sample more frequently and conduct additional studies. The results will be used to determine any changes that may be needed.

MEET DEE HAYDEN

When people call in looking for information, Dee Hayden is usually the first person in the Southwest District Office to greet them. Dee is the soothing voice behind the front desk at the district. A small sampling of her responsibilities includes public response, scheduling rooms, calling maintenance and "whatever is needed," she described.



"Even if I am not the right person to reach, it doesn't stop me from helping them. It cuts down on people getting the wrong information," Dee said. "Many times they even may have reached the wrong agency, or they have been referred and transferred to many different numbers. But if you respond to them in a pleasant voice and with a smile on your face, they are going to be taken in. I think it is important not to forget that."

Environmental investigations continued in Marion at former defense sites and industrial properties throughout the city. The investigations stemmed from Ohio Department of Health findings showing a higher than average rate of leukemia for graduates of River Valley High School (a former defense site) and for women over the age of 60 in the city. Ohio EPA oversees work performed by the U.S. Army Corps Engineers on the former defense sites. Ohio EPA also investigated 14 other sites in Marion under a new approach to environmental assessment funded by U.S. EPA.

Kirby Tire has accumulated approximately 20 million scrap tires since the 1950s. The Wyandot County Health Department and Ohio EPA have worked with Kirby since 1990 to bring the site into compliance with Ohio regulations. After failing to comply with a 1997 court order to begin reducing the number of scrap tires on site, the court ordered Kirby in September

1998 to cease accepting tires. Also in September, Ohio EPA ordered Kirby to clean up the site. Failure to comply with that order led Ohio EPA to contract with a private firm to begin removing 2.8 million scrap tires from the site over the next two years. Work began in May 1999.

Northeast District Office

A reflection of growing interest in brownfield site development in Northeast Ohio, the district was busy with Voluntary Action Program sites. They worked on eight covenants not to sue, nine urban setting designations, and three project audits. The emergency response group responded to 42 percent of the 1,099 spills reported, including a number of individually significant spills affecting residential areas, schools, and transportation routes.



DISTRICT OFFICES, CONT.

The district surface water program has been actively involved with a seven-county effort to update the Water Quality Management Plan for all areas that drain to Lake Erie. A regional task force of local officials, environmental agencies (including the district), regulated community representatives, and citizen groups is designing a 20-year plan to protect waterways. The surface water staff also worked with multiple watershed partners to protect Spring Brook, which harbors the last remaining population of native Ohio Brook Trout.

The Northeast District was the only field office (including five districts and nine local air agencies) that met the 90 percent on-time goal for processing permit-to-install applications. The success is attributed to implementation of a quality improvement process. They also led all field offices in Title 5 permit processing.

After many years of investigating citizen complaints about the Stoneco asphalt plant, it finally shut down for good in December 1998. This was due primarily to the district's extensive surveillance, odor investigations, and enforcement action.

Drinking water staff assisted with the development of the new Total Coliform Rule, provided written notification of the change to approximately 2,200 public water systems; and held 11 training sessions for all types of water systems, local health departments and water system consultants. Staff also helped educate



MEET MIKE GERBER

Through his responsibilities as an emergency response on-scene coordinator in Northwest District Office, Mike Gerber collaborates with an assortment of technical staff, emergency management agencies, fire departments, businesses and other government agencies in a variety of spill situations.

"Spills occur at a variety of places—from fixed facilities to roads—and they may occur any hour of the day," Mike said. "Calls come in to our 800 number from those who caused the spill and from local fire departments and concerned citizens who may have witnessed a spill. From that point, we coordinate the cleanup, pull things together, provide technical assistance and use containment equipment. We identify the responsible party, assist them in contacting the right people, and refer to other divisions at the Agency."

Gerber, with Ohio EPA since 1987, also takes an active role in pollution prevention through presentations to industry and school groups. "We provide education, outreach and training to bring people together, to show what equipment is out there and to provide the latest



public water systems about complying with new rules requiring confidence reports.

Scrap tire cleanups were completed at the CASTLO and Norton tire dumps.

Southeast District Office

Two scrap tire abatement projects were completed. Approximately two million tires were removed from the Warsing tire dump in Coshocton County and 400,000 tires were removed from the Glen Willis dump in Lawrence County. Ohio EPA issued Pike Sanitation Landfill a permit for a new scrap tire monocell — the first in the Southeast District.

An agreement was reached with local industries to remediate the Green II Landfill site in Hock-

ing County. The innovative remedy includes phytoremediation as a key component, utilizing trees to control leachate migration and to dewater the landfill. Only if this innovative remedy fails will the industries be required to install a more traditional cap.

Surface water staff's five watershed teams continued activities to promote the Agency's watershed strategy. This strategy is intended to help improve water quality by looking at nonpoint sources of pollution as well as the traditional point sources of pollution. Activities included regular team meetings, watershed delineation and analysis (including field sampling) and outreach/education with local watershed groups.

The City of Dover and the Village of Strasburg in Tuscarawas

DISTRICT OFFICES, CONT.

County began disinfecting their drinking water, bringing 100 percent of the community water systems in the district in compliance with the disinfection requirements of the drinking water rules.

The district continued to take a leadership role in developing multi-state input on the long-term management and use of depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6), a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process used at the Department of Energy (DOE) Piketon facility and two other DOE locations in the United States. Congress set aside almost \$400 million to fund the long-term conversion of DUF6 to a more stable and useable material.

A quality improvement team, The Ringy Dingys, was the first Ohio EPA team to be selected to present its case study at the Team Excellence in the Public Sector. The group, selected as one of the top two teams at that event, represented the public sector at the Ohio Manufacturers Association's Leadership Forum. As a result of the team's work, customer satisfaction with the telephone system increased from 59 percent to nearly 100 percent, busy signals were virtually eliminated and the district is saving \$28,000 per year.

The district assumed responsibility for air monitoring, inspection and permitting programs in Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson and Monroe counties previously under the jurisdiction of the Northern Ohio Valley Air Authority.

MEET BOB WYSENSKI

Bob Wysenski, assistant chief of Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office, oversees program areas and operations, coordinates district involvement, and responds to public concerns. With a motto of "no surprises" that carries throughout the district office, Bob attributes planning, a commitment to communication with the regulated community and the staff open-door policy to ensure that the office stays on top of the Agency's issues.



Bob transferred from the Ohio Health Department's water quality division in October 1972 when Ohio EPA was first created. Bob, who is commonly known as "Mr. Cuyahoga," has devoted much of his career to the restoration of the Cuyahoga River. "Seeing the water quality improvement of the Cuyahoga River—where it was, and where it is now—has been a very rewarding part of my job," he said. It's good to look back and see the improvement to the environment. It's why I came to the Agency."

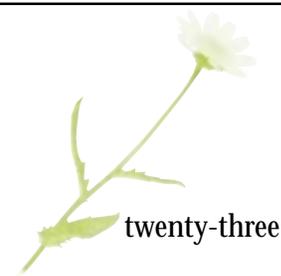
MEET PEGGY HOFFER

Peggy Hoffer, an executive secretary at Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office, is involved with correspondence and activities related to many personnel and environmental issues in her district. A native of Southeast Ohio, Peggy joined the Agency in July 1990.



Peggy's responsibilities include providing information to management, gathering data for reports, reviewing timecards and leave requests, tracking inventory, managing petty cash and some purchasing. In addition to her routine daily items, she contributes to the district's teams and quality initiatives; prepares the quarterly quality report; and helps coordinate special events, including the district's annual staff appreciation day.

"One of my most memorable experiences at Ohio EPA would probably be in 1992 when I received an outstanding performance award at an Agency-wide ceremony in Columbus," Peggy said. "It was both a surprise and a really good feeling to receive the award before the whole Agency."



Data & Systems

Ohio EPA continues to pursue a strategy to coordinate and integrate data management across environmental programs. This will allow the Agency to operate more efficiently, better serve the regulated community, and ultimately better provide environmental and accountability information to the public. With contractor support, three divisions tested and implemented new data management systems, including the Division of Surface Water, the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, and the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management.

Replacing the oldest systems also helped eliminate Y2K-related problems. In addition, various systems and software were upgraded to make them Y2K-compliant and allow them to better support the improved programmatic software systems being implemented. The Agency also concentrated on contingency planning to assure business continuity in the event of various Y2K-related emergencies.

Finally, the Central Office move to a new location required a great deal of effort to keep the many computer systems and data communications network operational.

MEET YOLANDA WILLIAMS

For Yolanda Williams, customer service means responding to the computer-related concerns of other Ohio EPA employees. Yolanda, an Ohio EPA employee since 1989, has worked as a network administrator in the Office of Data and Systems since 1994. Yolanda maintains the office's help desk to ensure that all trouble calls are logged and responded to by other network administrators in Technical Services, monitors the printing of divisional reports, assists Agency employees in computer hardware repairs, and installs or upgrades software.



"I really enjoy working in Data and Systems, even though things can be pretty stressful at times, especially if our network is down," Yolanda said. "But each individual on our staff brings vast technical knowledge and expertise to the table. I really appreciate the way we all come together as a team to resolve the problems our users are experiencing."

Employee Services

During SFY'99, the Office of Employee Services fine-tuned the electronic innovations and administrative improvements of the previous year with a goal of prompt and efficient services for all Agency employees. The office is developing a new, simplified employee evaluation process. Floating clerical positions were added to support all offices and divisions in Central Office.

The Agency's Occupational Respiratory Protection Program was modified to incorporate the changes in OSHA's new respiratory protection standard. The program continues to be in full compliance with all applicable standards and regulations.

I want to thank you and your staff in the Public Interest Center for the excellent service I received. Most often, organizations take one or two weeks to respond to public inquiries. But the State of Ohio agencies are responding within one day! However, your office not only responded but contacted me on a more personal level by phone in less than a day. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated."

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity ensures fair and equal treatment to all individuals employed by or seeking



CENTRAL SUPPORT, CONT.

employment with Ohio EPA, regardless of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual orientation), age, national origin, religion, veteran status, or disability. The office also monitors the Agency's compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules, and regulations governing nondiscrimination in employment.

The office integrated the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management's mediation program with its internal functions. This mediation process is now used frequently at Ohio EPA and is a successful avenue for resolving conflict.

In addition, the number of EEO complaints to outside agencies decreased due to the office's efforts to resolve conflicts, whether seen as a big problem or small, internally and at the lowest level possible. They also developed an Agency EEO training program, and initiated an informative Black History Month program for employees.

Fiscal Administration

The Office of Fiscal Administration processes all of the Agency's purchase requisitions, accounts receivable and payable, and payroll. Progress in the past year included: on-line entry of the Agency's payroll (which replaced manual entry of payroll transactions on a disbursement journal); expanded use of the State Credit Card for purchases of supplies and equipment costing less than \$1,000 (which reduced the number of State Purchase Orders by 1,000 and saved \$32,000 in related processing costs) and introduction of an environmentally friendly electronic purchase requisition (which is hoped will someday replace the paper one).

MEET TERRY IRWIN

When a division needs assistance filling out vouchers to order supplies, such as chemicals for water quality sampling, or advice on fiscal problems and technical accounting procedures, Terry is there to assist them. She oversees the paper-trail process to ensure that divisions such as Air Pollution Control, Hazardous Waste Management and Drinking and Ground Waters get the supplies they need to do their jobs and that vendors receive payment for Ohio EPA's purchases.



"Everybody is usually on a tight deadline in financial operations, but we are a tight-knit group who help each other out." Terry said. "Prompt payment is necessary, or the divisions will be charged interest. I help divisions prepare paperwork, review the vouchers that come into the divisions to make sure they're accurate, and make sure that the vendors receive payment when merchandise is delivered." Away from work, Terry, an Ohio native, enjoys family time and relaxation in the outdoors including bird watching and visiting scenic areas throughout Ohio.

Legal

The Legal Section helps divisions and districts evaluate, prepare and negotiate administrative enforcement actions. In addition, Agency attorneys help facilitate rulemaking and legislative initiatives, prepare trade secret claim determinations, prepare and review contracts, address public records request issues, and provide general legal counsel.

To better match the Agency's needs, the Legal Section examined its workload, structure and procedures. Resulting changes included: reduction in the number of hearing officers and attorneys; a change in the upper management structure; implementation of a new cross-media program that matches attorneys with multiple divisions; and the hiring of an ethics and employment attorney.

The Legal Section began to examine how to make its procedures more responsive and efficient. For example, staff are looking for ways to more quickly process verified complaints, reduce the backlog of old cases on the enforcement docket and process new enforcement cases more effectively.

In SFY'99, the position of rules coordinator was created to track and coordinate all rules packages. The position also acts as a liaison with the legislature's rule review committee. In SFY'99, the rules coordinator worked on an internal



rule development manual; a database that allows detailed tracking of all rules in the Agency; and a pamphlet that outlines public participation during rule development.

Library

This year the Library reorganized its walkup patron computer system to enable more logical, progressive researching by staff and the public. Between the Agency library, the State Library and Ohio college libraries, a great deal of information is available. Cross-discipline databases such as *Lexis/Nexis* and subject-specific databases such as *Toxline*, *Medline* and *EPA Methods and Guidances for H2O* are also available on the walkup.

Public Interest Center

The Public Interest Center educates the public about environmental issues and Ohio EPA's activities, and encourages public participation in the Agency's decision-making processes. In SFY '99, the public involvement section responded to more than 3,300 citizen telephone calls, letters and various information requests and conducted 110 public meetings. They also provided highly regarded community relations training to approximately 130 Agency employees. The media relations section issued 326 news releases to inform the media about Ohio EPA activities, and Agency employees responded to more than 1,640 media calls. The publications staff produced numerous brochures,

external and internal newsletters, and educational displays. A special internal newsletter was produced to keep Central Office employees informed about their move to new headquarters in downtown Columbus.

Quality

This past year saw Ohio EPA's quality improvement efforts reach a higher level with statewide recognition. The Ringy Dingy team from the Southeast District Office participated in Ohio's Team Excellence in the Public Sector program and was selected as one of two teams to represent the State at the Ohio Manufacturers Leadership Forum. By implementing a new telephone system, they saved the Agency more than \$59,000 in the first year of implementation. In addition, Ohio EPA's strategic management process was recognized by former Governor Voinovich as one of the premier planning processes in the state.



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Sewage Sludge Program (H.B. 197)

Ohio EPA has worked extensively with external stakeholders for several years to develop legislation that would enable Ohio EPA to take delegation of the federal sewage sludge program from U.S. EPA. H.B. 197 was introduced in February 1999 by Rep. Krebs (a reintroduction of H.B. 768 from the 122nd General Assembly) as a result of these discussions. The bill was signed into law by Governor Taft on December 16, 1999

Livestock Farm Legislation (S.B. 141)

Legislation was introduced by Senator Mumper in May 1999 regarding the permitting of confined animal feeding operations. The bill would transfer permitting authority for the construction and operation of these sites from Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Hearings were held on the bill during the spring. Discussions on the legislative proposal are ongoing among Ohio EPA and the Ohio Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Administration's goal is to ensure that the bill contains the provisions necessary to enable either Ohio EPA or the Ohio Department of Agriculture to effectively administer a program for the oversight and permitting of large livestock operations in Ohio.

Public Involvement in Agency Rule-Making (S.B. 11)

After months of meetings with interested parties, Senator Kearns introduced S.B. 11, designed to improve opportunities for public participation in rule-making by state agencies. The bill authorizes the use of advisory committees in developing rules, which Ohio EPA has done regularly in the past. In addition, the bill requires the electronic publication of a *Register of Ohio* as the means of giving public notice of and information about agency rule-making processes. The electronic process will be phased in over the next three years.

Historically Channelized Watercourses (S.B. 20)

Prompted by a history of flooding problems in Northwest Ohio, Senator Bob Cupp introduced Senate Bill 20 to streamline the permitting process for projects in "historically channelized watercourses." Specifically, the bill states that historically channelized watercourses by their very nature provide technical, social and economic benefits. Therefore, upon making certain findings, Ohio EPA's antidegradation review of such projects is not as extensive. Ohio EPA worked with Sen. Cupp and interested parties in an attempt to find a reasonable balance between the need for drainage and maintaining Ohio's water quality standards.

Home Sewage Disposal Systems (S.B. 105)

Ohio EPA has worked with the Ohio Department of Health and various local health departments on the development of this legislation for quite some time. S.B. 105 acknowledges the historically poor regulation of individual on-lot disposal systems that has caused sewage disposal problems throughout the state. The bill would provide the necessary framework to improve this program and help minimize future impacts to Ohio's water resources. While the Ohio Department of Health is the lead on the bill, Ohio EPA supports their efforts.

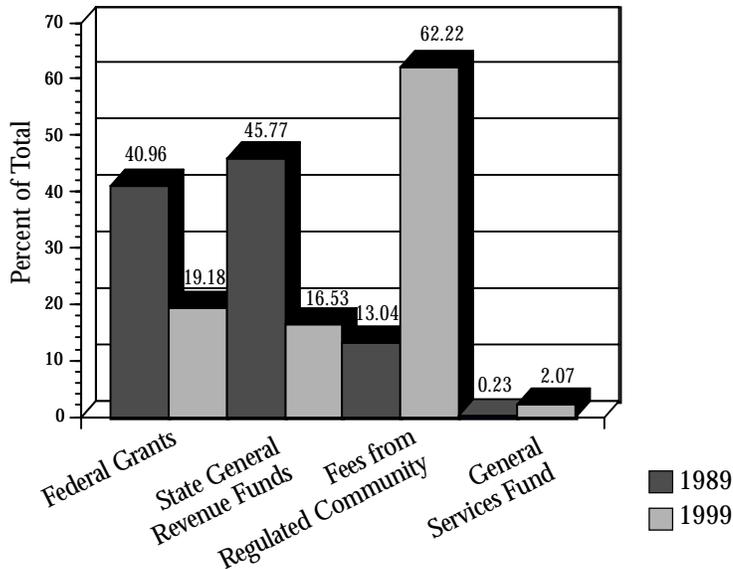
Economic Impact Statements (H.B. 13)

Ohio EPA has worked with other state agencies and Rep. Mottley on this legislation requiring certain agencies to include in their fiscal analyses of proposed rules information explaining the economic impact of the proposed rule on Ohio businesses. Under H.B. 13, Ohio EPA would be one of two state agencies to participate in a one-year pilot program. During that time, the Agency would work with stakeholders to assess the economic impact of a new rule on Ohio businesses, and submit that information to the legislature's Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review with the rule package.

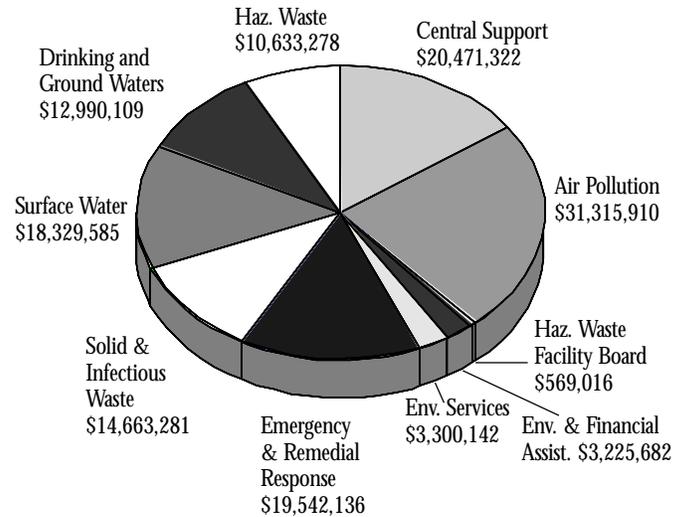


SFY'99 BUDGET INFORMATION—JULY 1, 1998-JUNE 30, 1999

Historical Trends in Funding

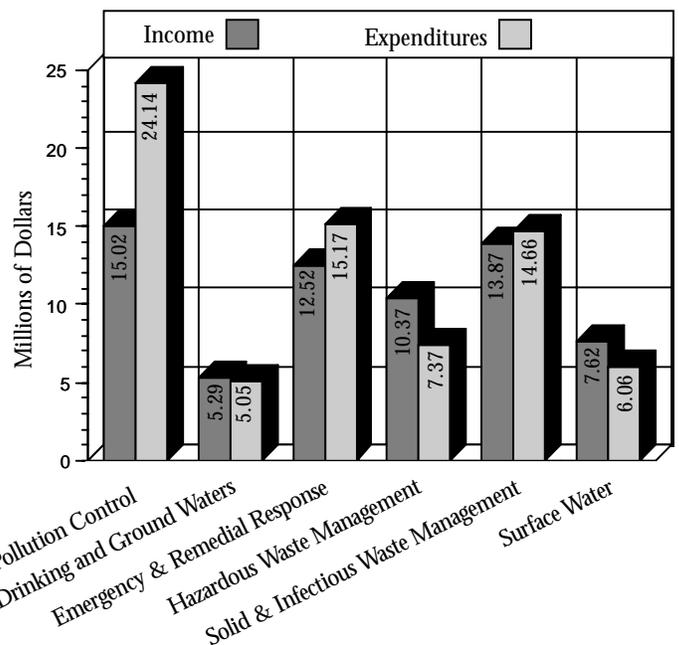


Ohio EPA Total Expenditures \$135,040,461

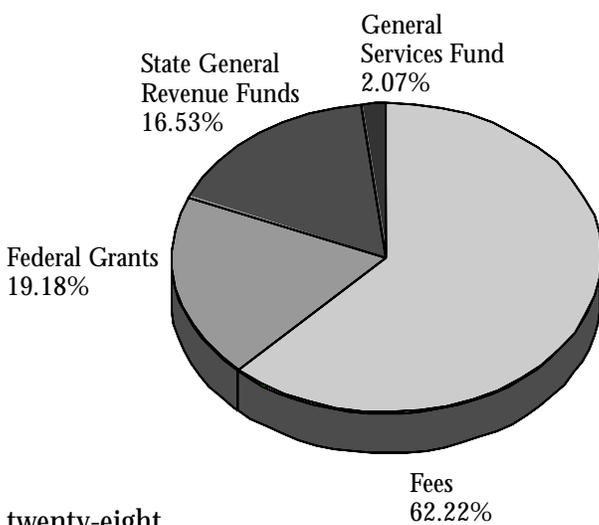


This chart shows how the sources of Ohio EPA's funding have changed significantly over the last 10 years. In 1988, nearly all of the Agency's funding came from state and federal sources. Now, nearly two-thirds comes from fees charged to the regulated community.

Fee Income and Expenditures by Program



Sources of Revenue



* Includes \$1 million transfer from the scrap tire fund to Ohio Department of Development, per Ohio Revised Code, which is shown as a reduction in revenue rather than an expenditure.

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Public Interest Center

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