



Above and Beyond

ingenuity, dedication and desire to succeed

Annual Report
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ingenuity, dedication and desire to succeed



Bob Taft
Governor

In its daily business, Ohio EPA is involved in programs that touch the lives of all Ohioans by keeping our air, land and water clean.

Facilities regulated by Ohio EPA have significantly reduced toxic emissions. Plans are underway to lower nitrogen oxide emissions from utilities. Drinking water treatment plants are

stepping up their security efforts. Innovative funding programs are in place to make wastewater treatment improvements affordable and to preserve valuable wetlands and other water resources. Contaminated properties and dump sites are being cleaned up.

Many of these programs at Ohio EPA are viewed as benchmarks by environmental professionals across the country, as you'll see in this annual report. And because environmental conditions don't observe boundaries, I'm pleased to recognize the interstate cooperation Ohio enjoys on many key environmental issues.

For example, as chairman of the Great Lakes Council of Governors, I am leading the Great Lakes Priorities project, a joint effort among the Great Lakes states to establish a comprehensive plan for restoring the Lakes. A coordinated approach along with assistance from the federal government will enable us to fund our priorities. I appreciate the leadership of Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones and his staff on this project.

I am confident that Ohio EPA, along with numerous partner organizations, will continue to make Ohio a cleaner and even more enjoyable place to live.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the historic flight of Dayton, Ohio's Wright brothers. Wilbur and Orville Wright were ordinary men who accomplished an extraordinary feat by mixing vision and practicality, inspiration and engineering. Few of us will ever have a chance to participate in a world-defining moment such as this, but each of us in our own way is working to improve our little corner of the world. I believe that many of Ohio EPA's employees share the Wright brother's ingenuity, dedication and desire to succeed in their endeavors.

Each day, Ohio EPA's employees devote their knowledge, ideas and skills to keep Ohio's environment safe and clean. In the face of budget cuts, our employees have come together to prove their commitment to the environment. They are working harder, coming up with ways to save money and keeping a positive outlook while continuing to perform thorough reviews of proposed projects and keeping existing facilities in compliance.

Ohio EPA has one of the most educated staffs of any state agency. Although many of our employees could find jobs in the private sector, they've chosen to serve Ohio's citizens by working here. We are proud of our employees and their commitment to a job well done.

In this 2003 Fiscal Year annual report, we highlight some examples of how the Agency and staff have gone above and beyond to make Ohio a cleaner and more pleasant place to live.



Chris Jones
Director



Division of Air Pollution Control

As partners, the Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) and nine local air agencies perform functions designed to attain and maintain good outdoor air quality and protect public health.

National Air Quality Standards

U.S. EPA's national standards for ground level ozone (smog), carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and lead were established to protect public health and the environment, to define an allowable concentration of pollutants and to restrict 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 an extensive air quality monitoring network.

Ohio EPA currently operates 50 ozone monitors in 32 counties. During the 2002 ozone season (April through October), Ohio EPA measured 22 readings above the one-hour ozone standard and 801 readings above the eight-hour ozone standard. From April through June 2003, Ohio EPA measured 22 readings above the one-hour ozone standard and 146 readings above the eight-hour ozone standard.

In 1997, U.S. EPA adopted an eight-hour ozone standard, which is more stringent than the one-hour standard. Based on monitoring data and guidance from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA has proposed that 33 of Ohio's 88 counties be designated nonattainment for the new standard. These designations will be finalized by U.S. EPA in April 2004.

Air Toxics

The division continues to implement air toxic reduction programs required by the Clean Air Act. The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is used to measure the effectiveness of the regulatory and voluntary efforts to reduce air toxics. Ohio facilities reduced toxic air emissions by 58 percent between 1992 and 2001.

Ohio EPA also implements the risk management planning program, which requires industries to develop plans to prevent accidental releases to the air and to mitigate the consequences of releases that do occur. It focuses on prevention measures for chemicals that pose the greatest risk to the public and environment. Approximately 500 facilities have filed risk management plans with Ohio EPA. In State Fiscal Year 2003 (SFY'03), Ohio EPA conducted 65 compliance inspections to ensure that these plans are in place.

In addition to these activities, Ohio EPA also conducts specialized air toxics monitoring studies. During SFY'03, studies ranged from air quality assessments of general communities to investigations for potential health impacts from higher air pollution emission areas. In response to requests from other Ohio EPA divisions, state and local health departments, the division continues to conduct indoor air toxic monitoring studies to evaluate potential vapor intrusion from underground soil and water plumes. The division also coordinates with U.S. EPA, Center of Disease Control (CDC), and the Agency of Toxics Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) to provide data and review reports regarding various health consultations and exposure investigations performed by ATSDR.

Issuance of Permits

In SFY'03, the division issued 998 permits-to-install, 560 permits-to-operate, 65 draft Title V permits and 165 final Title V permits. Two internal process improvement groups are studying the effects of implementing a permanent combination of fee emission reporting and emission inventory system reporting requirements and possible changes to permit-to-operate and

permit-to-install review and issuance, emphasizing ways to combine processes and/or permits. The division also began implementing changes recommended earlier by four process improvement groups. These improvements include: developing a plan for consolidating data for Ohio EPA's State Air Resources System (STARS); studying and recommending changes to permit applications; developing a plan to create and implement one easily accessible, comprehensive terms and conditions library; and improving guidance and outreach efforts for Non-Title V fee processing. The division is also participating in four permitting process improvement groups with industry.

Compliance Assistance to Small Businesses

The Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) provides free and confidential technical assistance to small businesses to increase understanding and compliance with air pollution regulations. The SBAP provides information about regulations and permit requirements, conducts on-site audits on request and assists in completing air permit applications. In SFY'03, the SBAP provided on-site assistance to 215 companies in 34 counties. In addition, the SBAP helped small businesses complete 224 air permit applications, saving them time, money and resources.

E-Check

The Mobile Sources Section oversees the contractor-operated vehicle emissions inspection program, known as E-Check, in the Cleveland/Akron, Dayton and Cincinnati areas.

The goal is to encourage motorists to routinely maintain the emission control equipment on their vehicles to reduce the release of pollutants that form ozone. In SFY'03, 1,896,274 vehicles were tested. Vehicles that fail their first test and pass later after repairs are made, show an average emission improvement of 85 percent for hydrocarbon and 91 percent for carbon monoxide.



Ohio E✓Check
Vehicle Emissions Testing Program

Ohio's Air Quality Continues to Improve, According to Ohio EPA Data

Since the inception of Ohio EPA 30 years ago, levels of all monitored air pollutants have dropped substantially.

Ohio EPA's 30-year air quality trends report analyzes air monitoring data collected between 1972 and 2001 for six pollutants for which national air quality standards have

been set by U.S. EPA. They include carbon monoxide, lead, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter. Ohio EPA maintains one of the most extensive air monitoring networks in the country with monitoring conducted at more than 200 locations around the state.

The air quality report includes the following findings:

- Sites monitored for carbon monoxide levels show an average reduction of more than 70 percent since 1972.
- Sites monitored for sulfur dioxide have shown an average drop of 90 percent in the past 30 years.
- Sites monitored for nitrogen dioxide pollution have shown an average drop of 22 percent since 1974.
- Ozone levels in Ohio have been reduced by 27 percent since 1972.
- U.S. EPA has changed lead monitoring requirements to discontinue traffic-oriented lead sites. Lead levels decreased by more than 95 percent during the 1979-1998 period.
- Particulates 10 microns in diameter or smaller (PM 10) decreased by 24 percent from 1989 through 2001. Fine particulate matter (2.5 microns), has only been monitored since 1999 and several years of data are required to establish a trend.

Annual Toxic Release Inventory Shows Decrease in Overall Releases

According to the Toxic Release Inventory report released during SFY'03, there was a major decrease in the amount of toxic releases to Ohio's environment in 2001. The 13.4 percent drop is the largest in the four years since non-manufacturing facilities have been included in the report. This is the fourth consecutive year the total releases have been reduced.

The 15th annual report included about 6,600 TRI reports from more than 1,700 facilities statewide. Lead and lead compounds were added as persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic compounds, known as PBTs. A new rule, with a few exceptions, reduces the reporting threshold for lead to 100 pounds. This resulted in an additional 400 reports compared to 2000. However, even with the additional lead and lead compound forms filed, the total releases and transfers of lead and lead compounds decreased between 2000 and 2001.

PBT chemicals were included in the report for the second year. PBTs are chemicals that remain in the environment for a long period of time, are not readily destroyed and can accumulate in body tissue. The reporting threshold for PBT chemicals is significantly lower than the typical reporting amounts.

A total of 667 separate chemicals and chemical categories must be reported. Each year, regulated facilities must report to Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA the amount of toxic substances they release to the environment, treat or otherwise manage on-site or transfer off-site for treatment, disposal or other management. The TRI report is a compilation of that data. It does not indicate the degree to which people may be exposed to these substances. Not all material that is released to the environment results in exposure to people. Permits issued to industrial and utility facilities by Ohio EPA regulate the amount of toxic releases allowed in order to maintain environmental standards.

Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) protects human health and the environment by characterizing and protecting ground water quality and ensuring Ohio's public water systems provide adequate quantities of safe drinking water.

Monitoring Public Water Systems

The division provides oversight and technical assistance to nearly 5,600 public water systems. During State Fiscal Year 2003 (SFY'03), the division conducted almost 2,200 on-site inspections; reviewed and approved approximately 1,450 detail plans for new and existing water systems; reviewed approximately 25,500 chemical and more than 150,000 microbiological water quality results; provided technical assistance; and assisted water systems during potential contamination incidences. A large majority of Ohio's public water systems continued to meet health standards, with more than 99 percent of the public water systems in compliance with chemical standards and 88 percent of systems in compliance with the microbiological standards.

Ground Water

To address ground water protection and remediation more consistently, division staff provide geologic and hydrogeologic support to Ohio EPA's waste management divisions. The staff reviews ground water-related permits and develops ground water-related guidance and rules. During SFY'03, division staff completed 2,865 technical support projects for Ohio EPA's waste management divisions.

Working Together

In an effort to enhance operations, division staff have been working with a subcommittee of the Drinking Water Advisory Committee to identify

improvements to the drinking water facility engineering plan review process. This group will finalize a report and action plan in late summer of 2003.

Division staff initiated 1,350 Source Water Assessment and Protection reports and completed and forwarded 750 reports to public water system officials for review. These reports identify drinking water source protection areas and outline potential threats and procedures for reducing and handling them. To date, 75 percent of Ohio's community public water systems have completed reports.

Staff continue to partner with the Division of Surface Water in developing Ohio's methodology for assessing the drinking water beneficial use for the Agency's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, required by the Clean Water Act. The division continued to administer and participate in the State Coordinating Committee on Ground Water and activities of the Ohio Water Resource Council. These groups have provided an opportunity to coordinate ground and drinking water issues with other federal, state and local agencies, as well as gain an understanding of priority water protection issues for stakeholders.

Financial Assistance

The Drinking Water Assistance Fund issued 17 loans totaling more than \$56.5 million to assist public water systems with infrastructure needs. The largest loan was issued to the City of Cleveland for \$31.6 million.

Enforcement

The division issued five consent orders with total penalties of \$10,000. The orders also contained \$16,100 in supplemental environmental projects. The division issued two unilateral findings and orders with \$47,250 assessed. Other enforcement actions included 16 bilateral compliance agreements and four actions through the Attorney General's Office with \$213,800 in penalties assessed.

Underground Injection Control

During SFY'03, the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program emphasized regulation of Class I injection wells, Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells, large capacity cesspools and Class V wells located within the influence of public drinking water supply wells. Class I wells inject waste 2,000 to 6,000 feet below any underground source of drinking water (USDW). Class V wells are used to inject non-hazardous fluids into or above a USDW. There are more than 15,500 Class V wells inventoried in Ohio, and tens of thousands more are suspected. UIC staff inspected all 12 of Ohio's Class I injection wells and 252 facilities potentially containing Class V injection wells. UIC also closed 12 Class V injection wells and sent notices of violation concerning 103 other Class V injection wells. The program sent notices to 442 facilities suspected of having motor vehicle waste disposal wells and identified 529 Class V wells within the influence of a public water supply well.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

The Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) supports the development of a variety of environmentally beneficial projects through financial and technical assistance.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

During SFY '03, the fund was active in assisting improvements for wastewater treatment works. The WPCLF financed more than \$214 million in low-interest loans, saving Ohio communities more than \$59.8 million.

In addition to the traditional assistance provided to improve wastewater collection and treatment systems, the WPCLF also provided financing to address nonpoint source pollution control needs. The WPCLF's linked deposit programs made six loans to homeowners in Mahoning and Cuyahoga counties totaling \$78,795 for improved sanitation through home sewage treatment system upgrades.

Nonpoint source water pollution is a general term that includes pollutants such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, pesticides, human and animal wastes that are washed into receiving waters by rain and snow melt. Nonpoint source pollution results from a variety of land use practices such as agriculture, forestry, home wastewater treatment systems, construction sites, surface mines and urban yards and roadways. Although it originates from many sources over relatively large areas, nonpoint source pollution is controllable through the implementation of best management practices. During SFY'03, the division awarded 128 loans to private agricultural producers totaling \$3.8 million for the implementation of some of these best management practices to control nonpoint source water pollution.

More than \$12.4 million was awarded for five projects around the state through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP).

WPCLF Financial Assistance SFY 2003

Project Type	Number of Loans	Total Loan Amount \$	Percent of Total
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Works*			
- Standard Communities	33	208,232,193	90.32
- Small Communities	4	1,850,767	0.80
- Hardship Communities	11	1,850,767	1.74
Nonpoint Source:			
- Agriculture-cropland	128	3,810,403	1.65
- Agriculture-animals	2	98,500	0.04
- Urban (on-site system)	6	78,795	0.03
- WRRSP*	-	12,485,000	5.42
Totals	184	230,565,069	100

* Five Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Projects (WRRSP) are included in awards to Municipal Wastewater Treatment Works Standard Communities.

This resulted in the protection and restoration of aquatic habitats in several water resources, including wetlands associated with Pickerington Ponds in central Ohio, Bass Lake in northeast Ohio and the Middle Cuyahoga River. See the associated sidebar for more information about this innovative and nationally acclaimed program.

Village Capital Improvement Fund (VCIF)

The VCIF provided interest-free loans totaling \$522,000 to 15 villages to assist in planning and design of wastewater treatment and public water supply facilities. These loans saved villages with limited resources up to \$73,000 in interest.

Ohio Power Siting Board

Economic problems in the energy industry slowed new power generation applications in Ohio. However, many previously approved Ohio Power Siting Board projects were well into construction last year, some of which posed serious construction-related environmental issues needing resolution. The previous generation projects also produced new gas pipeline and electric transmission line applications this past year. In 2003, division staff reviewed more than 25 projects and helped assess and evaluate construction methodologies and prescribe effective restoration techniques to lessen the effect these projects have on Ohio's environment.

Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA)

In its fifth year of operation, Ohio's drinking water revolving loan fund awarded loans to 17 water supply systems totaling more than \$56.5 million for improvements to ensure the quality of their drinking water.



Innovative Program Protects Water Resources

The original purpose of the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) was to finance publicly owned wastewater treatment works to reduce point source pollution. Since the program began, many of the nation's point source problems have been addressed. Now, Ohio is starting to focus more money and effort into reducing nonpoint source pollution and addressing the associated loss of ecological function and biological diversity that jeopardize the health of Ohio's water resources.

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) provides an opportunity for WPCLF funding recipients to finance planning and implementation of additional projects that address nonpoint source pollution. Funding and completion of these projects helps to protect or restore water resources. Restoration activities may range from the preservation and protection to intensive repair and recovery of affected stream and aquatic habitats. WPCLF recipients can initiate projects themselves or sponsor approved projects planned by another group, such as a land trust, park district, or other entity with the ability to protect and manage such resources. The cost of the WRRSP project or sponsorship amount is added to the requested WPCLF loan amount. In return for sponsoring the project, the WPCLF loan recipient's interest rate is reduced to offset the principal and interest costs of the WRRSP project. An additional reduction of 0.1 percent further benefits the loan recipient and encourages participation in the WRRSP.

U.S. EPA headquarters has recognized this program and other states, including Oregon and Iowa, are developing similar programs. In addition, the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals has released a set of materials to help communities address water quality impacts of sprawl. This "Smart Growth for Clean Water" publication identifies Ohio's WRRSP as an innovative approach and application of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

"The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program is a great example of how Ohio EPA is going above and beyond to combine partnerships and creative thinking to benefit the environment," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones. "I'm proud that other states and organizations are using our program as a guide to develop similar protection plans."

Two projects financed during the 2003 State Fiscal Year include the acquisition of Bass Lake by the Trust for Public Land and the Geauga County Park District and a loan to the Franklin County Metro Parks to significantly enhance Pickerington Ponds in Canal Winchester. Since October 2000, Ohio EPA has provided more than \$35 million to projects that have protected or restored approximately 38 miles of stream corridors and 4,000 acres of wetlands.

Division of Emergency and Remedial Response

The Division of Emergency and Remedial Response (DERR) supports a variety of activities to help reduce and address chemical and petroleum hazards in Ohio. The division's responsibilities include radiation safety; spill prevention, control and countermeasures; special investigations; site investigation and assessment; brownfield revitalization; orphan drum removals; emergency response; remedial response; and the Voluntary Action Program.

The Emergency Response (ER) program responds to sudden releases of hazardous materials, petroleum and radiation. ER partners with local and state emergency management officials to minimize and prevent releases to the environment.

ER received 9,543 calls during State Fiscal Year 2003 (SFY'03), fielded 5,065 incident reports and responded to 1,020 spills. Listed below are just a few of the significant incidents:

- An actively leaking rail tank car full of 2-methyl hexyl chloroformate was found in a switchyard in Spencer, Ohio (Medina County). Nearby residents were evacuated and ER staff worked with the railroad and tank owner for two days to abate the release to the environment and institute clean up actions to remediate the spilled chemical.
- A gasoline tanker carrying 8,500 gallons of gasoline overturned on I-71 near Lebanon during an extremely heavy snowfall in February. Responders were able to tap the four compartments and remove most of the gasoline without incident. The small amount released was captured by pre-placed dams.
- Staff assisted U.S. EPA and its contractor in removing thousands of containers of lab chemicals from Nalin-Neveu Memorial Laboratory. After removal of the chemicals in approximately 225 lab-pack

drums, custody of the building was turned over to the City of Columbus.

- ER continues to provide an important public service by collecting containers of mercury for recycling from private homes, medical facilities, local communities and schools.

During weather-related emergencies and activations of the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), division staff coordinate efforts related to debris, public water supplies, sewage overflows and other environmental issues. In November 2002, a tornado swept through northwest Ohio causing an estimated \$9.5 million in damages. In March 2003, ice storms gripped southern Ohio resulting in an estimated \$20 million in damages. Division staff worked closely with local and state partners during both of these emergencies.

ER remains very active in state and federal workgroups to address coordinated responses to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents. ER received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for \$194,416 to purchase field equipment.

Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund

Brownfields are former business or industrial sites that may be contaminated with a hazardous substance as a result of past land use. This potential contamination often hinders the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of properties. The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund is a statewide competitive

program that awards grants for brownfield clean up activities which are a key component in brownfield redevelopment. The first round of the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) ended in July 2002. The 13-member Clean Ohio Council provided \$39,953,748 to 17 projects across the state. Over the next 2.5 years, the properties will be cleaned up and redeveloped, providing economic benefits to the local communities.

The second round of the CORF began in June 2003. There are 24 local governments competing for an additional \$40 million in cleanup grants.

Remedial Response

The remedial response program assesses contaminated sites and determines if they are safe for their intended use. The remedial response program provided oversight of investigations or cleanups at more than 180 state-led, Superfund and federal facility sites in SFY'03. In addition, this program conducted oversight activities at 68 sites in the operation and maintenance phase of cleanup. Of particular note:

- A consensual agreement was reached with Bison Corp. to install ventilation systems in homes down-gradient of the facility in Canton. This interim action will mitigate potential indoor air risks from releases of trichloroethylene (TCE).

- The Scioto County Court of Common Pleas rendered a decision requiring New Boston Coke Corp. to comply with its environmental obligations, including defining the nature and extent of contamination at its closed facility in New Boston.
- A memorandum of agreement was signed with the Department of the Interior (DOI) outlining roles for each agency during oversight of the cleanup at the Krecji Dump Site. DOI is the lead agency for this site.

Voluntary Action Program

The Voluntary Action Program (VAP) provides tools to the private sector so they can voluntarily clean up and return land to productive use. Volunteers who seek state release from future liability must demonstrate that the property meets state cleanup standards by submitting information to Ohio EPA documenting that the standards have been met.

Ohio EPA approved two Urban Setting Designations (USDs) in SFY'03, both in Cuyahoga County. A USD may be awarded when cleaning the ground water to drinking water standards is not



Reggie Brown, left, and Bruce Miller, right, of the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response help two students try on protective clothing and equipment used for hazardous materials response.

necessary because it will not be used for drinking water. The sites are located in highly urbanized areas with community water systems that supply safe drinking water to surrounding residents. Any other exposures to contaminated ground water, such as to surface water or wildlife, must still be addressed.

During SFY'03, the VAP issued 17 covenants not to sue to properties across the state: six in the Northwest District, five in the Northeast District, three in the Southeast District, two in the Central District, and one in the Southwest District. In addition, nine properties entered the Memorandum of Agreement Track of the VAP. This

track provides volunteers with a release from future state and federal liability provided that additional opportunities for public involvement and oversight by Ohio EPA staff are included during the cleanup process.

Ohio EPA Issues 100th Covenant Under Voluntary Action Program

In November 2002, Ohio EPA awarded the 100th covenant not to sue under the Voluntary Action Program, which encourages property owners, lenders and developers to investigate and clean up contaminated properties in Ohio.

Ohio EPA issued the covenant to Good Enterprises Ltd., also known as Liniform Service, after determining a voluntary cleanup conducted at the property, located at 1050-1060 Northview Avenue in Barberton (Summit County), met environmental standards for industrial redevelopment.

The family owned company has operated as an industrial laundry facility on the approximately 2.2 acre property since 1980. Several dry cleaning businesses have operated at the site since 1924.

Liniform Service received two low-interest loans from Ohio EPA to study and clean up the site, saving approximately \$42,000 compared to conventional financing.

"This is not a program just for major corporations," Jones said. "Ohio EPA can provide funding and advice to make a successful cleanup possible for small businesses, too."

Division of Hazardous Waste Management

Post-Closure and Permitting Accomplishments

The 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) stresses accountability and results from federal agencies including U.S. EPA. In complying with the GPRA and managing the post-closure and permitting programs to produce results, U.S. EPA created goals for safe waste management at certain post-closure and permitted facilities. This group consists of treatment, storage or disposal facilities with at least one land disposal unit that ceased operating before October 1, 1997, and did not clean close by that date. The goal of both the division and U.S. EPA is that by 2005, 80 percent of these existing hazardous waste management facilities will have approved controls in place to prevent releases to air, soil and ground water. U.S. EPA also instituted intermediate milestones that states must meet in order to show an acceptable rate of progress in achieving the goal.

Closure (Cleanups of Hazardous Waste Management Units)

In SFY'03, the division's hazardous waste closure program accepted 17 certifications of closure completion that resulted in the removal and proper off-site disposal of approximately 240 tons of hazardous waste. These closure activities also required the removal and proper management of

more than 53,000 tons of contaminated material and debris. In addition, the division approved 26 closure plans to implement closure and decontamination activities for other hazardous waste units across the state.

Permitting

The division's permitting program issued seven hazardous waste renewal permits and processed 182 minor permit modifications and 22 major permit modifications.

The division received national recognition at the 2003 Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials meeting in April 2003. U.S. EPA headquarters recognized the division for outstanding accomplishments during the 2002 fiscal year in the area of Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) permitting goals for post-closures in place. The division ranked third nationally for output during the year and received a plaque from U.S. EPA.

Outreach

The division completed several improvements to its Web site, one of which was the introduction of a search feature for written technical assistance determinations. Another improvement was making draft renewal permit actions available. In addition, the division created an electronic news service for its stakeholders, a service that is now being implemented in other Ohio EPA divisions. This service provides stakeholders with timely updates on events and news related to hazardous waste activities in Ohio and is part of the division's continuing effort to improve communication.

Cessation of Regulated Operations Program

When certain businesses close, they must first remove hazardous chemicals from their property. If left behind, these chemicals may cause environmental and human health hazards and can result in higher cleanup costs and potentially create a contaminated brownfield site.

During SFY'03, the Agency conducted 65 inspections of facilities that permanently ceased their regulated operations. The Agency also granted extensions to four facilities to allow them more time to complete removal activities for a more orderly closure of operations.

Pollution Prevention (P2) Activities

The division is conducting many activities to assist industries in reducing and preventing waste generation. The division has fully integrated P2 into division activities, particularly in enforcement, inspections and permits.

Inspectors promote and identify P2 opportunities when they conduct hazardous waste inspections. As part of the division's technical assistance, staff are conducting P2 assessments to help Ohio companies identify and implement practices to reduce waste generation. This service, provided with the assistance of Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention, is a key strategy for achieving one of the division's long-

term goals. Benefits from division-led P2 assessments have included reduced waste generation and increased cost savings for participating companies. During SFY'03, the division completed 10 P2 assessments and provided more than 160 written P2 suggestions in inspection letters.

Assuring Compliance

Two important components of the division's compliance assurance program include the use of inspections to verify compliance and operation of a strong enforcement program for companies not in compliance. Timely enforcement provides a deterrent to non-compliance and helps level the playing field for those who have not allocated necessary resources to comply with hazardous waste rules.

During SFY'03, the division resolved 26 administrative enforcement actions resulting in more than \$575,000 in assessed civil penalties.

Approximately \$29,000 of this was credited toward supplemental environmental projects such as using nonhazardous solvents and recycling hazardous waste. In addition, 12 companies were referred to the Ohio Attorney General for enforcement. These enforcement efforts resulted in the proper treatment and disposal of approximately 12,000 tons of hazardous waste and/or contaminated media.

Regulatory Services Unit

During SFY'03, the Regulatory Services Unit gave eight presentations reaching 400 people. Information presented included the proper management of electronic equipment; the proper management of fluorescent lamps; the proper management of used oil; and overall compliance with hazardous waste regulations.

Unit staff also answered 521 technical assistance-related phone calls, replied to 26 written requests for information and replied to 36 e-mails.

For help understanding the hazardous waste regulations, please call (614) 644-2917 or e-mail jeff.mayhugh@epa.state.oh.us.

Long-Term Goals

During the past year, the division undertook a strategic planning effort to re-evaluate and update its program long-term goals. These goals will serve as the foundation for annual planning efforts for the next several years. The goals can be found on the division's Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/.



If hazardous waste is not properly managed, expensive cleanup projects could result.

Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

Composting Rules

The new composting rules became effective on June 1, 2003. These rules should promote greater utilization of composting in Ohio. The rules were written with a feedstock-based (waste streams) approach to provide greater flexibility to composting facilities. Accordingly, the type of feedstock determines applicable operational requirements and quality standards for the resulting compost product. The new rules expand the number of organic materials (feedstocks, bulking agents, and additives) that owners and operators can accept at their facilities and provide options for new organic materials that may be suitable for composting.

Scrap Tire Abatement

Ohio EPA uses Ohio's scrap tire fees collected on each tire sold in Ohio for scrap tire removal projects. Owners or operators of illegal scrap tire dumps are ordered to remove the tires and recycle or dispose of them properly. If these companies or individuals fail to remove the tires in compliance with a specified removal schedule, Ohio EPA hires a contractor to complete the removal, then pursues cost recovery in the courts against the responsible individual. In accordance with Ohio law, Ohio EPA created crite-

ria to award bids for scrap tire cleanups to companies that reuse or recycle the tires.

One million dollars a year from the scrap tire fees is directed to the Division of Litter Control and Recycling at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. That program funds projects that will strengthen markets that recycle scrap tires collected in Ohio.

The sixth state-funded scrap tire abatement project continued to focus primarily on the Kirby scrap tire site in Wyandot County. Work at this, the largest scrap tire cleanup site in Ohio, continued with a total of 3,001,872 passenger tire equivalents (PTE = 20 pounds of tire material) removed during SFY'03. This brings the total scrap tires removed from the Kirby site to 8,762,388 PTEs since July 1999. There are an estimated 11 million tires remaining at the site that will be removed over the next 4 years.

Five scrap tire sites had been performed prior to the Kirby scrap tire fire in August 1999, which consumed all of the money available from the scrap tire fee at that time. Additional funding, provided by a fee increase on each tire sold in Ohio from \$0.50 per tire to \$1.00 per tire, allowed for the acceleration of the Kirby cleanup. The fee increase also enabled the Agency to pursue additional priority scrap tire cleanups in the state.

The first additional site and seventh state-funded site was the Timco site in Harrison County. A total of 484,309 PTEs were removed from the site. The eighth site was the Kays site in Portage

County, where a total of 559,376 PTEs were removed. The cleanup of a ninth site, the Vasi site in Lorain County, removed 574,232 PTEs.

The total number of PTEs removed using Ohio's scrap tire fee during SFY'03 was 4,357,580 PTEs from four sites (Harrison, Portage, Lorain, and Wyandot counties). In just six years, the total number of scrap tires cleaned up using Ohio's scrap tire fee exceeds 18 million PTEs from 10 separate sites. The enforcement of Ohio EPA's scrap tire regulations, in cooperation with Ohio's local health departments and solid waste management districts has resulted in the clean up, without the use of Ohio's scrap tire fee, of approximately 8 million additional tires from 79 other illegal scrap tire dumps since 1996, when the rules were enacted.

Solid and Infectious Waste Management System (SIIMAN) Update

SIIMAN is the division's information management system used to manage and track permit, registration applications, license applications and related information. The system also allows field staff to build comprehensive facility compliance histories based on recorded data concerning facility inspection activities and related correspondence. The SIIMAN system uses this information, as well as data gathered from regulated facility annual reports, solid waste management district quarterly fee reports and solid waste management district annual summaries, to produce Ohio EPA's annual facility data, fee summary and planning summary reports.



A windrow turner remixes a composting windrow consisting of animal manure, animal bedding and straw.

Major Tire Cleanups Completed During SFY'03

Timco, Inc.

During the cleanup of this five-acre illegal dump site in Harrison County, 484,309 PTEs were removed. Central Ohio Contractors hauled the whole scrap tires to Kimble Clay and Limestone Sanitary Landfill in Tuscarawas County to be processed and reused to construct the leachate collection system in a new phase of the landfill.



Kays' Tire Dump Site

This 15-acre wooded site, located along Alliance Road in Deerfield Township (Portage County) was originally estimated to contain more than one million scrap tires. Original estimates were high. Because only 559,376 PTEs were actually present, the contractors, C&E Coal and Liberty Tire Services of Ohio, completed the tire removal under cost and ahead of schedule. The unspent balance from the original project bid was used for scrap tire removal projects at other sites.

A separate contract for mosquito spraying was awarded to Fisher's Ag Services. The company conducted aerial spraying of both the Kays' and nearby McMasters' dump sites throughout the summer.

As part of the removal, C & E Coal hauled approximately two-thirds of the whole tires to a mobile scrap tire recovery facility located at its scrap tire monofill near Minerva (Stark County). Liberty Tire Services of Ohio brought a mobile recovery facility to the dump site to shred the remaining tires. The shredded tires were transported to A & L Salvage, Inc., a construction and demolition debris landfill located near Lisbon (Columbiana County), to construct the leachate collection system in a new phase of landfill.

Vasi Scrap Tire Site

Liberty Tire Services of Ohio contracted to clean up this site located in Elyria, Ohio. A total of 421,264 whole tires and 152,968 shredded PTEs were removed from the site.

The whole tires were taken to a mobile scrap tire recovery facility located at a scrap tire monofill near Minerva (Stark County). After shredding, the tires were transported to A & L Salvage, Inc., a construction and demolition debris landfill located near Lisbon (Columbiana County), to construct the leachate collection system of a new phase at the landfill. The existing shredded tires at the site were sorted and the dirtiest shreds were disposed at a licensed solid waste landfill, while the cleaner shreds were disposed at a licensed tire monofill.

The cost of the tire removal totaled \$419,265 and was paid for using Ohio's scrap tire fees. Cost recovery actions have been initiated by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Attorney General's Office (AGO). In addition, civil fines of \$125,000 were imposed in November 2002, by the Lorain Court of Common Pleas against Elyria Acquisition Company No.1 and Mary Kay Szabo. The owners remain responsible for the final remediation of the site.

In SFY'03, staff produced a compact disc of the SIIMAN Data Entry Module applications for distribution to the public, local health departments and the regulated community. This allows them to electronically submit annual reports, inspection reports, registration applications, license applications and solid waste district reports. Copies of the software were mass produced and made available to customers free of charge. The software can be ordered through an online order form, by mail or by telephone.

Enforcement

A number of improvements have already been instituted and others are in development. The division has reviewed the use of available resources to address solid and infectious waste violations and is implementing a strategy to increase the use of local health departments and prosecutors to address violations. Better utilization of all available resources will increase the efficiency of the state in addressing violations.

Inspection and enforcement manuals were revised, updated and distributed. A newly formed workgroup will develop a new civil penalty policy to increase consistency and reduce subjectivity in the calculation of civil penalties. New enforcement initiatives were undertaken to address similar violations at multiple facilities across the state.

Of the seven cases in the solid waste program that would be two years old by the end of 2002, all but one were resolved. There was a corresponding drop in the average age of pending cases by 178 days. The division now averages administrative resolutions in less than a year. The solid waste program met its goal to issue 15 orders in 2002. The division assessed \$863,347 in civil penalties (\$809,027 by the AGO and \$134,160 in administrative penalties).

Division of Surface Water

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, established under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, focuses on identifying and restoring polluted surface water. A TMDL is a written, quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources of pollution and proposed actions necessary for restoration and protection.

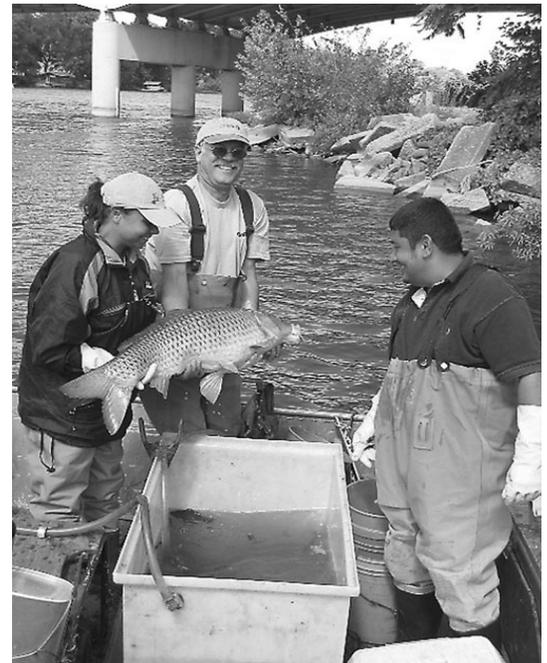
TMDL projects are underway in approximately 20 percent of Ohio's watersheds. Ohio's systematic approach to restoring impaired waters enhances traditional requirements with comprehensive monitoring and follow-up implementation. This past year, four TMDL watershed projects were approved by U.S. EPA.

Ohio accounts for 61 percent of all completed TMDL projects in Region 5.

Staff conducted monitoring and assessment activities in five watersheds and continued project development in cooperation with stakeholders for 26 active projects. In addition, the division submitted to U.S. EPA the Integrated Water Quality Report 2002. The updated reporting format presents water quality status and condition information by watershed (previously reported by stream segment). This report also provides the latest update to Ohio's list of impaired waters.

Discharge Permit Backlog Update

On average, the division issues approximately 65 major permits and 550 minor permits each year. The backlog is calculated as the number of permits expired six months or less divided by the total number of permits. U.S. EPA considers a state to have eliminated the backlog if the backlog is 10 percent or less.



In September 2002, representatives from the Programme for Belize accompanied Division of Surface Water staff to observe Ohio EPA's biological assessment techniques. Linette Gomez of Belize holds a 38-pound carp electrofished out of Griggs Reservoir in Columbus. Ohio EPA employee Roger Thoma helps her hold it as Victor Alegria of Belize watches.

Nonpoint Source Program

The nonpoint source program collaborated with many partners and stakeholders to aggressively address the leading sources of water quality impairment to Ohio streams. This past year, the nonpoint source program provided more than \$4 million in Clean Water Act grants for watershed projects. This investment, matched by approximately \$3 million in local commitments, helps support more than 30 local planning and 12 restoration projects to restore impaired waters in those watersheds. Since Ohio's restoration needs far exceed available funds, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff are working hard to find new partners and funding sources for restoration and preservation projects.

Discharge Permit Backlog Eliminated

Ohio now leads the states in Region 5 for the elimination of backlog of discharge permits. For the past four years, the division has met or exceeded permit issuance goals and eliminated the backlog of expired discharge permits. As of July 1, 2003, the backlog for both major and minor permits was under 10 percent.

End of:	MAJORS	MINORS
SFY'99	50%	44%
SFY'00	36%	27%
SFY'01	22%	22%
SFY'02	22%	17%
SFY'03	10%	10%

Internally, the division is working closer than ever with other divisions to align program objectives and resources.

Primary Headwater Stream Initiative

The division conducted community outreach on the headwater stream initiative to encourage voluntary protection of Ohio's primary headwater streams and to disseminate information to facilitate local voluntary efforts. Ohio EPA's outreach efforts included:

- Numerous training sessions and presentations to interested groups regarding primary headwater streams evaluation techniques;
- Five headwater workshops, attended by more than 120 people, held in conjunction with the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Lake and Wayne Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Ohio State University's Agriculture Research and Development Center; and
- Primary headwater stream fact sheets, drafted to promote a wider understanding of the value and importance of headwaters and to encourage local governments, soil and water conservation districts and watershed groups to promote sound land use management and protection of primary headwater streams.

These efforts reflect Ohio EPA's conviction that the proper management of small watersheds and the streams that flow through them is critical to the long-range success of water resource management in Ohio. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/wqs/headwaters/index.html>.

Lake Erie

Ecosystem objectives and a lakewide habitat strategy were drafted

for the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP). Numerous public education and outreach events provided technical training, promoted stewardship and provided opportunities for public participation for the Maumee, Black, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula River's remedial action plans (RAPs). The Black River RAP partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct an intensive inventory of French Creek.

A fish habitat shelf, the first such structure in Lake Erie, was constructed along the lower Black River as an alternative to sheet-pile lined banks.

The division's RAP staff drafted a guidance document to set common minimum state delisting targets for the areas of concern.

Treatment Plant Technical Assistance

The division's Technical Assistance Unit provides free on-site technical assistance to wastewater treatment facilities across Ohio. The program's focus is bringing noncompliant or under-performing

wastewater treatment systems back into compliance with their discharge permits at little or no capital cost to the community.

This past year, wastewater systems in Cedarville (Greene County), Marietta (Washington County) and South Webster (Scioto County) were all in serious violation of their permitted discharge limits. With operator training on process control, South Webster came into compliance within one week. Implementation of minor modifications to the process flow in Marietta brought compliance within a month. Both of these systems turned around without capital expenditures. The current operation at Marietta has realized improved performance and reduced cost by eliminating chemicals previously used to "band aid" the problem. At Cedarville, assistance from the division enabled the plant to eliminate the discharge of gross pollution until long-term capital projects could come online.

Ohio to Continue Advice on Fish Consumption

The future of the Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory program was questioned in early 2003 when budget cuts at the Ohio Department of Health forced the department to cur-



tail its role in the program. Governor Bob Taft asked the directors of the agencies to find ways to continue providing meaningful fish consumption advice to the public, but in a more understandable, usable and effective manner.

In order to ensure continuation of this vital program, Ohio EPA stepped forward to provide funding to support testing of fish for the 2003 fishing season and analysis of how much is safe to eat.

Ohio is nationally recognized for its water quality monitoring program, which includes testing of fish and other aquatic life to evaluate the health of the stream. Another important part of the monitoring program is the analysis of human health risk posed by eating fish from specific water bodies. Maintaining the program is critical because new monitoring work continues to uncover locations where toxic pollutant sources and contaminated sediments exist.

The fish consumption advisory published for the 2002 fishing season was made available to the public at local public health clinics, fishing license vendors and on-line at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/fish_advisory/index.html.



Mark Bergman of the Division of Surface Water, left, discusses the surface water Enviroscope model with students at Aurora Middle School in Bedford Heights. The model helps students learn about how everyday activities can contribute to water pollution.

Ohio EPA Awards \$4.4 Million for Local Watershed Efforts on the Eve of National Water Monitoring Day

In 2002, Governor Bob Taft declared October Clean Water Month. To mark the occasion, Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones stood along the banks of the Middle Cuyahoga River in Summit County to announce more than \$4.4 million in grants to local watershed projects throughout Ohio. The announcement was made on the eve of National Water Monitoring Day to highlight the importance of state-local partnerships in improving water quality.

Nonpoint source pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. It is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even underground sources of drinking water. Nonpoint source pollution is now the leading cause of water quality problems in Ohio.

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act deals with nonpoint source pollution. Under section 319, states, territories and tribes can get grants from U.S. EPA to implement nonpoint source pollution controls. Since 1990, Ohio EPA has distributed Section 319 funds for more than 200 projects. Education, innovation, cost-sharing and voluntary compliance with locally developed watershed management plans are the cornerstones of this program.

To support the restoration of impaired water bodies already identified and prioritized by Ohio EPA, funds from the nonpoint source program are now purposely targeted toward those watersheds. By leveraging and focusing resources, cleanups should occur more quickly. During SFY'03, Ohio EPA awarded \$4,484,743 to 13 projects.

Division of Environmental Services

The Division of Environmental Services (DES) provides quality biological and chemical data and technical assistance to other Ohio EPA divisions, as well as other state and local agencies, to help monitor and protect human health and the environment and to ensure a high quality of life in Ohio.

- The division received 6,999 samples covering a variety of matrices, including water, drinking water, soil, sediment, air canister, air filter and fish tissue. Included were 105 rush samples from various Ohio locations including East Liverpool, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Mill Creek in Hamilton County, East Elementary School and Edgewood Elementary schools in Union County. DES reported 98,714 inorganic test results and 2,349 organic scan results.
- Staff conducted 57 bioassays (toxicity tests) and 47 chlorophyll analyses.
- Five analytical methods were added or amended.
- The lab received 283 samples from the Fish Tissue Consumption Program, bringing the total samples to date to more than 4,700. Samples are analyzed for arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, selenium, pesticides and PCBs.
- For the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) lab certification program, staff reviewed 90 separate laboratory documents, audited six laboratories and issued 21 laboratory actions and 15 suspensions or revocations.
- Staff conducted 346 chemistry and 144 microbiology lab surveys and reviewed 340 applications, 40 plans and 142 correction statements for the drinking water laboratory certification program. Two newsletters on drinking water laboratory policies and procedures were issued, each to approximately 425 laboratories.
- Staff responded to 4,275 technical assistance requests from individuals outside Ohio EPA and 2,965 technical assistance requests from Ohio EPA staff. Requests covered methods, data interpretations, sampling requirements, sample scheduling and requirements for certification. Special assistance provided to the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response included review of seven technical documents, development and review of six policies and more than 400 hours on development of a new contract.
- The SFY'03-04 Capital Budget, approved in December 2002, included funding for the design and construction of a new laboratory facility to be shared by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health. Division staff put in more than 2,000 hours to help with schematic and design development phases for the new facility that were completed by the design team of URS/RFD.



Tatiana Bertulsons, right, prepares organic water samples for analysis at the Ohio EPA lab.

Environmental Education

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) celebrated its 12th year of supporting education programs targeting kindergarten through university students and teachers, the general public and the regulated community. In SFY'03, OEEF awarded 44 grants totaling \$949,218 for projects like these:

- Environmental self-audits for Ohio farmers and a demonstration in five eastern Ohio counties of a solar-powered-pump watering system to prevent livestock from degrading streams and streambanks.
- Workshops for drinking water treatment plant officials about new technologies for monitoring the presence of microbes and bioterrorism agents in water supplies.
- Regulatory compliance training for sewage treatment and septic system installers in northwest Ohio; for operators and inspectors of small wastewater treatment systems in northeast Ohio; and for mining and quarrying operators statewide.
- Outdoor classroom supplies for schools in five counties and curriculum specific to local watersheds in 14 counties.
- Teacher workshops and classroom materials on air quality, clean fuels, nuclear science and water sampling techniques.
- Hands-on opportunities for middle school and college students to help restoration ecology scientists repair damaged ecosystems.
- Capacity-building grants for local officials: training for board members of local watershed organizations; and model ordinances and other resources to improve the quality of applications to the Clean Ohio Fund for open space preservation.
- For the general public, programs on asthma triggers, biodiversity, composting, lawn care, native plants, household hazardous waste disposal, septic system maintenance, streambank stabilization, riparian habitat conservation and storm drain marking.

Hundreds of science projects filled the arena at Ohio State University for State Science Day. Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) was a major sponsor, providing \$10,000 to help make the event a success. In addition, numerous Ohio EPA employees volunteered to serve as judges to select the winners of the Governor's Awards for Environmental Protection Research.



Birds, Flight and the Wrights

Did you know that the U.S. Air Force is studying dragonflies because of their ability to fly equally fast backwards and forwards?

Birds, Flight and the Wrights is an integrated approach to environmental education that links a historic event - the anniversary of man's first powered flight - with science, natural history, language, environmental issues and art. This two-year initiative of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton was funded in part by a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

A new trail at the Center allows visitors to compare the flight of seeds, squirrels, dragonflies, butterflies, bats, birds and airplanes of various types. The trail opens with markers asking whether visitors can walk or run 120 feet in 12 seconds, the length and duration of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight. A prairie learning station draws comparisons to nearby Huffman's Prairie, where the Wrights practiced. As they watch birds soar over the prairie, visitors are invited to discover the principles of flight-drag, thrust, lift and gravity. Accompanying exhibits present botanist Orville Wright's sketches of many of the same tree and seed species found at the Center.

Students and teachers at Englewood Elementary School helped Aullwood's staff create a fourth and fifth grade curriculum that incorporates the students' science, history, language arts and math projects which relate to flight. The students in the gifted program helped to design the trail displays, which include their artwork, poetry, and natural history projects. Thirteen hundred students from schools in Dayton, Northmont, Tipp City, Trotwood, Kettering and Vandalia-Butler participated in the new Birds, Flight and the Wrights field

trip to the Center during the Dayton area's Inventing Flight celebration in 2003.



Environmental science and engineering scholarships were awarded to 18 students at 10 Ohio colleges and universities. The OEEF also provided support for State Science Day and the National Engineers' Week Future City Competition, to help middle and high school students explore careers in these fields.

Teacher professional development is supported through a multi-year partnership with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO), with 1,800 participating schools. The partnership currently targets five under-served audiences for K-12 environmental education: urban/minority, language arts, social studies, early childhood and high school. A summer writing institute on "The Language of Nature" helped Ohio teachers explore fiction, nonfiction and poetry about nature as a way of helping students meet new state standards in language arts.

Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

The Office of Federal Facilities Oversight (OFFO) ensures the health and safety of the public and the environment by overseeing investigation and remediation activities at federal cleanup sites in Ohio. The office also facilitates environmental monitoring, emergency response, remedial actions and public outreach at Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DoD) sites in the state.

DOE plans to complete site cleanup at the Fernald site by December 2006. During SFY'03, cell 2 of the on-site disposal facility was filled and cap construction initiated as waste placement continued in cells 3, 4 and 5. A major milestone was reached with the start-up of the Radon Control System for the K-65 silos. Significant construction continues in the Silos Project in preparation for waste retrieval and treatment. Waste pit material treatment and shipping continued as the 87th train carried waste off site. Natural resource restoration projects started in the southern waste units and northern pine plantation areas. The final major public tour of the site was held in June 2003.

DOE plans to complete cleanup at the Mound facility by March 2006. Excavation of the PRS 66 disposal area began in January with 30,000 cubic yards removed as of June 30. After removing more than 4,000 pounds of solvents from the Operable Unit 1 disposal area, the treatment systems were turned off to initiate a contaminant rebound test. Six more buildings were demolished, totaling 63. Mound continues to ship transuranic waste by rail to South

Carolina. Reuse efforts at the site continue.

The DOE Portsmouth facility continues in a cold stand-by mode. DOE completed a major phytoremediation project to address solvent contamination on the southern portion of the site. The preferred remedy for the most highly contaminated ground water plume has been selected and forwarded to U.S. EPA for concurrence. DOE awarded a contract to Uranium Disposition Services for the design and construction of depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion plants. DOE has proposed shipping 6,000 DUF6 cylinders from Tennessee to Portsmouth for conversion, which will require new legal agreements.

At DOD's former Plum Brook Ordnance Plant, a removal of explosives-contaminated soil was started at TNT Area B. Fieldwork to clear ordnance at the beach of the former Erie Army Depot was completed. At the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant, thermal decomposition was conducted at two Load Lines to destroy residual explosives so buildings could be demolished safely. At Wright Patterson Air Force Base, investigations were completed on a

former rocket testing facility. The office also provided technical and administrative support to other federal facility cleanups throughout the state.

At the Mound facility, DOE originally planned to leave contamination in place at an area known as Potential Release site 66. Ohio EPA worked closely with DOE, contractors and stakeholders regarding this area and as a result of these major efforts, the area is now the largest single cleanup project on the site with significant levels of contamination being removed.

In addition to the cleanup of the DOE Fernald site, office staff have been involved in planning for the restoration of the site. The site will be transformed into a green space park for future community use with different habitats such as wetlands, prairies, and forests using all native trees, grasses and flowers. Restoration of large portions of the site has already occurred with the remainder of the site to undergo restoration over the next several years. This success is also the result of significant efforts to work with DOE, the contractor and stakeholders.



Ohio EPA staff show Ross Middle School students some of the macroinvertebrate and amphibious life in the wetlands at Fernald during a class outing May 20, 2003.

Office of Pollution Prevention

The Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP) helped nearly 300 Ohio businesses and provided additional technical assistance to more than 250 companies, organizations or individuals in SFY '03. This includes 18 site visits to help Ohio companies implement pollution prevention projects and more than 25 presentations and training events to help educate Ohio businesses and organizations about pollution prevention.

OPP's section of Ohio EPA's Internet site receives more than 30,000 visits each month from external stakeholders and has been acknowledged by U.S. EPA and others as one of the better state agency sites to obtain practical pollution prevention information.

More than 3,000 Ohio businesses received OPP's newsletter, Prevention Quarterly. This quarterly newsletter highlights successful pollution prevention activities completed by Ohio businesses and provides resource information to help companies reduce waste.

OPP developed more than 60 new publications to help companies prevent pollution. These include fact sheets on pollution prevention techniques and the reduction of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals,

technical assistance reports for specific businesses and case studies highlighting successful pollution prevention projects.

Ohio continues to be recognized as a national leader in incorporating pollution prevention in 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 111 enforcement settlements to date, including 10 in SFY '03.

In SFY '03, OPP continued efforts to integrate pollution prevention into Agency programs. Some examples of these activities include: helping the Division of Hazardous Waste Management provide pollution prevention training on painting and coat-

ings for inspectors; coordinating the Ohio Materials Exchange with the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management; assisting the Southeast

District Office on incorporating pollution prevention into inspections; and coordinating the Ohio Mercury Reduction Group with the Division of Surface Water. The goal of the Ohio Mercury Reduction Group is to share information and help coordinate mercury reduction efforts in Ohio EPA and with other state agencies and organizations. Group activities include a collection and review of mercury data

pertaining to Ohio, assistance with voluntary programs such as thermometer exchanges and assistance with coordinating mercury reduction activities that impact business throughout Ohio.

On October 24, 2002, 30 more Agency employees became graduates of the Developing Excellent Agency Leaders (DEAL) program. This 13-month leadership competency training program has produced 173 graduates since it was created. For more information about DEAL, go to: swdoweb.epa.state.oh.us/deal.html



Small Business Assistance Office

Small businesses play an important role in Ohio's economy, accounting for about 97 percent of Ohio's businesses. Because of the large number and different types of small businesses, their environmental performance is critical to the success of Ohio EPA's mission. However, due to the scope of the environmental regulations and their limited resources, small businesses are often challenged to understand and comply with environmental laws. The Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO) was established to help small businesses. SBAO's main activities include:

- Providing telephone and on-site assistance.
- Conducting workshops to help increase awareness of environmental regulations.
- Developing and distributing compliance assistance resources such as fact sheets and brochures that help explain the regulations in easy-to-understand language.
- Regulations and what to expect during an Ohio EPA inspection.
- Distributing thousands of compliance publications. Approximately 2,500 small businesses receive SBAO's quarterly newsletter.
- Revising and developing eight compliance assistance publications. Topics for the new publications included storm water permitting for small construction sites, re-
- Moving mercury switches from automobiles and managing hazardous waste containers.
- Producing a video to help auto salvage yards understand their environmental requirements and identify environmental best management practices.

SBAO's accomplishments for SFY'03 include:

- Responding to 808 compliance assistance requests.
- Conducting four compliance workshops with topics including an overview of hazardous waste



Everything But the Rattle

In SFY'03, the SBAO produced a video, "Everything But the Rattle: Environmental Best Management Practices for the Auto Recycling Industry." Before the video was even finished, U.S. EPA invited SBAO to speak about the project at the National Compliance Assistance Roundtable. The video project was also highlighted as a significant compliance assistance tool on the Air Pollution Distant Learning Network satellite broadcast, part of the U.S. EPA's Air Toxic Network. SBAO was also invited to show the video at the Ohio Auto and Truck Recyclers Association's annual meeting.

The best indicator of the project's success is the feedback SBAO has received from auto salvage yards. The video was distributed to all licensed auto salvage yards in the state. Each was asked to return a postage paid video evaluation form. Based on the forms received, many auto salvage yards are making changes suggested by the video to improve compliance with their environmental requirements.

In addition to the attention the video has received here in Ohio, the Ontario Ministry of Environment also has a high level of interest in the project and has requested permission to use SBAO's auto salvage compliance guidebook and video in development of their own materials.

EEO

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), as an advocate of equality, is committed to maintaining optimum professional service. The office pursues fair and equal treatment for all individuals employed by or seeking employment with Ohio EPA regardless of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual orientation), age, national origin, religion, veteran status or disability. They also monitor the Agency's compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations governing nondiscrimination in employment.

Ohio EPA recognizes the value of experience and qualifications of individuals in the effective fulfillment of responsibilities in the work place. The Office of EEO continuously prepares and conducts training for a staff of approximately 1,300 to help maintain a healthy and productive work environment while keeping the Agency in compliance with state and federal EEO requirements.

Employees can turn to the office to seek advice, report allegations of discrimination or request assistance with any situation that may be creating conflict in the workplace. Sixty-two employees utilized the office for informal counseling services and advice in SFY'03.

As a result of these efforts, charges of discrimination at Ohio EPA remain

relatively low. During SFY'03, Ohio EPA received only nine discrimination complaints. Six of the complaints were based on sex, two on disability and one on race/religion. All allegations were investigated and resolved quickly.

The office continues to conduct training for all new hires. Thirty-six employees received training on EEO policies and procedures.

Employee Services

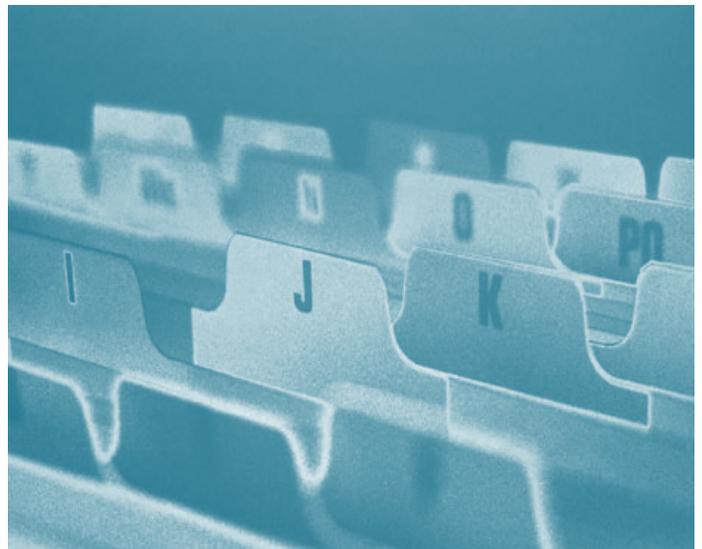
Ten staff members in the Office of Employee Services (OES) provide complete employment services to nearly 1,300 employees statewide. The office performs or oversees all hiring activities including posting vacancies, recruiting and screening applicants, preparing applicant pools for management review, conducting background checks, offering employment and providing initial orientation.

During SFY'03, staff processed 5,244 applications for 110 vacant positions, 348 new or changed position descriptions and 44 resignations or retirements. Temporary clerical support was provided to four central support offices, Central District Office and all but two of the program divisions. More than 50 summer interns were hired into the Division of Surface Water's environmental sampling and storm water compliance programs. Students represented approximately 25 Ohio colleges and universities.

Internal services include administration of benefits including disability, FMLA, health care, and dental and vision insurance, electronic creation and update of position descriptions and the Agency table of organization and skill assessments to identify qualified applicants and proposals for classification plan changes. Other services include development and coordination of events and programs such as Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day and the Healthy Ohioans Wellness Program.

The office serves as the intake office for Ohio EPA's par-

ticipation in the State of Ohio Workplace Mediation Program administered by the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management. This program provides employees with a forum to resolve workplace conflicts.



Office of Fiscal Administration

The Office of Fiscal Administration coordinates purchasing, accounts payable, Controlling Board representation, retention of fiscal documents, accounts receivable, payroll, grants administration, budgeting, economic analysis and internal accounting control review.

During SFY'03, the purchasing and payables section processed 1,300 purchasing documents and more than 15,000 payments to vendors. The use of electronic purchase requisitions and invoices was expanded to all five district offices to promote greater efficiency in the purchasing process. The payroll and revenues section processed payroll for 1,280 employees and deposited more than 39,000 fee payments. The grants administration unit performed cash management and financial reporting for an average of 64

active grants each month. Grant reporting was improved by standardizing the documentation that is used to complete annual and semi-annual reports.

The budgeting section completed a zero-based budget request for the FY 2004 - 2005 biennium and supported the Agency's efforts to obtain the financial resources needed to continue programs to protect and improve the environment. Work continued on the new Agency reporting database which provides detailed financial information

from data downloaded from the central accounting system.

The economic analysis unit completed 31 initial financial evaluations to determine a company's ability to pay for pollution control equipment or penalties in environmental enforcement cases. The unit also provided support for an average of 19 ongoing enforcement cases each month, including efforts to enforce environmental laws at the New Boston Coke site in Scioto County.

Information Technology Services

During the past year, the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) focused on two areas - improving the Agency's network and improving customer service. Early in 2003, the aging and outdated network was replaced, preparing the Agency to take advantage of current and emerging technologies including video conferencing. The Agency also became part of a statewide virtual private network securing electronic transactions between Ohio EPA offices throughout the State.

Many staff throughout the Agency rely on timely and responsive assistance from the Office of Information Technology Services. During the past year, the office responded to 2,065 help desk calls. Several ongoing initiatives will help to further improve the services provided. A recently initiated project will help develop an ongoing process for measuring and improving customer satisfaction. To provide better

oversight of system development activities, four staff have been fully trained in an accredited project management program. In addition, efforts have been made to better coordinate the purchasing of hardware and software, saving the Agency money and allowing the Agency to maintain a more accurate hardware and software inventory.

Progress continues on the coordination and integration of data

management across environmental programs. The Division of Surface Water's Surface Water Information Management System (SWIMS) was updated and aligned with the Agency Enterprise Database.

Labor, Safety and Ethics

The Office of Labor, Safety and Ethics provided a variety of services to Agency employees in the past year. The office continued to work with the union to decrease and resolve grievances at the lowest possible level to reduce the need for third-party intervention.

Staff coordinated a comprehensive occupational safety and health program for employees who perform a wide variety of field and lab activities in support of the Agency's mission. This program included providing training and refresher courses in occupational health and safety legal requirements, CPR, defensive driving, preventing workplace violence, field safety and respiratory equipment use. This combined effort resulted in only

11 OSHA-recordable injuries during 2002 for a workforce of almost 1,300 employees.

The office also revised its occupational medical screening program to better tailor the type of medical screening received to the type of field or lab duties performed by each employee. Staff are overseeing the Agency's commitment to develop and implement a 10-step business plan promoted by the Department of Adminis-

trative Services and Bureau of Workers Compensation in an effort to increase worker safety and reduce worker's compensation insurance premiums.

The Agency's ethics counsel answered numerous questions regarding potential conflicts of interest, private employment, nepotism and post-employment restrictions. Staff conducted ethics training for all new employees and supervisors.

Office of Legal Services

The Office of Legal Services provides general counsel to the divisions and districts and evaluates, prepares and negotiates administrative enforcement actions. In addition, Agency attorneys prepare trade secret claim determinations, prepare and review contracts and address public records request issues. The attorneys also assist in the development or review of legislation and rules.

In SFY' 03, the office provided significant legal support on legislative initiatives and on numerous rulemaking efforts, including the Agency's five-year rule review requirement. In addition, the office provided guidance to the Agency on Sub. S.B. 265, incorporation by reference in rulemaking.

The office provided significant support to the divisions in their efforts to meet Agency-wide enforcement goals. These include issuing 110 administrative orders, resolving all two-year-old administrative enforcement cases and resolving all verified complaints older than two years. In calendar year 2002, the Agency issued 144 administrative orders and resolved 95 percent of its backlogged enforcement cases. In addition, at the end of 2002, there were only two verified complaints pending that were

older than two years. In addition, during SFY' 03, the office established uniform "boilerplate" provisions for use in all Agency enforcement orders. The office also helped create verified complaint protocol and revise the multi-media enforcement protocol.

The office generated 58 formal general counsel opinions and provided informal general counsel assistance on a daily basis through services provided by assigned duty attorneys. Staff conducted extensive research on the issue of creating and enforcing use restrictions as part of cleanups under Ohio EPA's various legal authorities. Implementation of a contract with a computerized legal research provider resulted in a savings of approximately \$40,000 in annual legal re-

search costs. Attorneys presented training seminars on public records and the recently enacted statute of limitations law regarding civil penalties. The office also assisted in the timely implementation of the Clean Ohio Fund program.



Ohio EPA Report Summarizes Environmental Enforcement Successes in 2002

Ohio EPA's environmental enforcement efforts in 2002 eliminated at least two billion gallons of untreated sewage overflows annually and result in other measurable environmental improvements as well.

"Historically, Ohio EPA's regulatory performance has been judged on the number of cases settled and civil penalties assessed because those are easy to measure," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones. "Using those standards, Ohio EPA has performed very well in the past three years. But more importantly, we have significantly improved the environment through our enforcement actions. These improvements will positively impact Ohio for many years to come," Jones added.

For example, Ohio EPA and the Attorney General's Office (AGO) resolved cases involving sewer overflows with the cities of Columbus, Toledo, Youngstown and Bucyrus. The judicial decrees in these cases required more than \$2 billion dollars in improvements to wastewater treatment plants to eliminate sewer overflows, and will eliminate the discharge of more than two billion gallons of untreated sewage annually.

Ohio EPA issued 144 enforcement orders and assessed \$2,176,465 in civil penalty settlements in 2002, passing the \$2 million mark for the third year in a row. In addition, the AGO filed 53 consent orders, assessed \$7,608,187 in penalties and recovered \$1,369,038 in costs and \$763,000 in other monetary recoveries on Ohio EPA's behalf. This is the second highest amount of total civil penalties assessed by the AGO since tracking began 13 years ago.

A record-setting court-issued penalty was obtained in a case against New Boston Coke (\$2,568,000), and the Heritage Land Development case resulted in the largest civil penalty assessed in the history of the state in a wetland enforcement case (\$1,000,000). In addition, the AGO resolved an enforcement case against Marion Steel Company that will result in a significant reduction in mercury emissions.

The *Division of Surface Water* assessed total penalties of \$2,980,624 (\$2,611,500 from the AGO and \$369,124 in administrative civil penalty settlements), the third highest amount in the last 12 years. The *Division of Hazardous Waste Management* assessed \$1,863,619 in civil penalties (\$1,280,629 by the AGO and \$582,990 in administrative civil penalty settlements), the highest total in the last five years.

The *Division of Air Pollution Control* resolved 119 enforcement cases, which is a record high number of non-auto emission related cases in one year. The division collected \$3,940,437 in penalties (\$2,833,256 from the AGO and \$1,107,181 in administrative civil penalty settlements). This is the second highest total penalties collected in the last 10 years by the air program.

The *Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management* has improved the time it takes to complete enforcement actions and now averages administrative resolutions in less than a year. During 2002, the division assessed \$863,347 in civil penalties (\$819,027 from the AGO and \$44,320 in administrative civil penalty settlements).

By consistently meeting performance standards, the *Division of Drinking and Ground Waters* maintains the lowest average age for administrative cases of any program - 139 days. The division assessed \$136,625 in penalties (\$63,775 from the AGO and \$72,850 in administrative civil penalty settlements).

Over the last two years, the *Division of Emergency and Remedial Response* has critically reviewed its enforcement program. A criticism of the program has been that cleanup is not completed because sites simply get stuck in the lengthy regulatory process dictated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The division made a strategic decision to focus on a select number of priority sites in order to move them toward cleanup and final resolution. This has been a successful effort for the division. In 2002, 11 cleanups of contaminated sites were completed and five new enforcement orders were issued.

In addition to the civil settlements, the State's criminal enforcement efforts resulted in 17 convictions that resulted in \$79,375 in fines, \$180,533 in restitution and sentencing that equated to 3,371 days in jail.

Additional environmental benefits gained by Ohio EPA's enforcement actions in 2002 included:

- cleanup of 5,070,632 scrap tires;
- 7,956 tons of pollution removed from the air;
- cleaner drinking water for 9,208 customers;
- elimination of unsanitary sewage conditions for 1,229 lots;
- mitigation of 39 acres of wetlands;
- proper storm water controls for 512 acres of land under development;
- cleanup of 9,675 tons of solid waste;
- treatment, disposal or removal of 37,405 tons of hazardous waste;
- 526 acres of previously contaminated land returned to use; and
- new treatment of 188,000 gallons per day of sewage not previously receiving centralized treatment.

Office of Legislative Affairs

Ohio EPA has worked with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and various local health departments on home sewage reform legislation for several years. The Home Sewage Disposal System bill (H.B. 231) proposes minimum statewide standards for new sewage systems and includes installation and maintenance requirements. Ohio EPA will continue to work closely with ODH, other interested parties and the bill's sponsor relative to discharges and potential water quality impacts as discussions continue on the bill in 2004.

An increase in the amount of out-of-state construction and demolition debris (C&DD) arriving in Ohio has created a heightened awareness of the weaknesses of our current C&DD program. Ohio EPA worked with Senator Carnes to develop legislation that would strengthen the program by expanding siting restrictions and increasing the operational and permit-

ting requirements at C&DD disposal facilities. Ohio EPA testified as a proponent of the Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill Siting and Monitoring bill (S.B. 199) in the 124th General Assembly and although the bill was voted out of the Senate, it failed to be voted out of committee in the House of Representatives. The Agency remains committed to working on this issue in the 125th General Assembly, although we do not anticipate significant legislative progress this year.

Though not initiated by Ohio EPA, we worked closely with interested parties on the Statute of Limitations bill (S.B. 105), effective in Ohio on July 24, 2002. The bill establishes a statute of limitations for actions seeking civil or administrative penalties brought under environmental laws. The bill requires that any environmental action seeking civil or administrative penalties be filed

within five years of the date an agency knew or was informed of a violation. Those portions of an action that seek a remedy, such as cleanup or cost recovery, are not covered by the statute of limitations. The new five-year deadline will become effective on July 24, 2007.

Effective on October 22, 2003, the Credible Data bill (H.B. 43) creates a process for maintenance of a computerized database for the collection and submittal of water quality samples from sources outside the Agency. The database will be available to outside users. Ohio EPA strongly supports the role of local stakeholders in monitoring local water resource conditions and supported this initiative as it will help move the Agency toward creation of a database to house all water quality data. This data will help develop a more complete snapshot of water quality throughout Ohio.

Library

Ohio EPA's library continues to serve as a resource for consultants, regulated entities, students and employees. The library collection includes many technical documents on topics such as Ohio water quality sampling research and methodology that are not available in other libraries. Li-

brary staff respond to inter-library loan requests from scientists as far away as Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, the Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom. They also provide copies of all Ohio EPA policies and guidance documents. Online biblio-

graphic search capabilities were expanded in SFY'03. The library is open to visitors from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Librarians can also respond to questions by phone at (614) 644-2862 or by e-mail (ruth.evans@epa.state.oh.us).

Operations and Facilities

Over the last year, the Office of Operations and Facilities has worked hard to hold down costs by continuing to decrease the Agency's motor fleet. Use of several sedans and quad cab

pickups purchased to replace an aging fleet of jeeps led to a reduction in the total fleet by 24 during the last year for an estimated cost savings of \$776,000. Energy cost savings of

\$30,000 were realized in the Agency's Lazarus Government Center offices by turning off lights at night and cutting back on hallway lights during operating hours.

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'03, the public involvement staff sent information to more than 17,000 citizens about Ohio EPA activities. They also conducted 107 public meetings attended by more than 4,600 citizens, and provided highly regarded community relations training to 47 employees in two of Ohio EPA's district offices.

The media relations staff issued 266 news releases to inform the media about Ohio EPA activities, and was successful in securing media coverage of numerous events and field activities. Agency employees reported responding to 2,096 media calls; 98 percent of those were handled by Public Interest Center staff. The media staff also provided media relations training to 39 employees in Central Office and two of Ohio EPA's district offices. The debut of this training session was very well-received.

The publications staff wrote, edited and designed dozens of brochures, newsletters, reports and educational displays. The office's Web page was redesigned to make it easier for citizens, educators and reporters to find the information they need. Staff also played a significant role in the redesign and launch of Ohio EPA's new Web site. For the first time in the Agency's history, the entire Web site has a consistent appearance and structure.

Strategic Management

In SFY'03, the Agency went above and beyond in a couple of strategic ways. Creation and posting of Ohio EPA's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) in public areas has allowed staff and visitors a chance to see Agency accomplishments. The EPI is a series of 35 charts that track a variety of activities and performance standards including permitting, compliance, enforcement and other key functions.

In June, the Agency implemented strategic planning to identify values and focus areas for the coming year. A team of 21 employees from across the Agency conducted three surveys to measure employee and external customer satisfaction and the Agency's strengths and weaknesses.

For the first time, the Agency's goal is to improve how we operate instead of just setting programmatic goals. Each division is completing planning

activities to achieve this goal. The results of this effort will be posted on Ohio EPA's Web site.

Management Training and Quality

Thirty employees are participating in the Agency's highly successful year-long leadership program, Developing Excellent Agency Leaders (DEAL). This is the seventh year for this program.

Although the state office of quality was not funded in the new biennium budget, quality service remains a priority at Ohio EPA. The Agency continues to encourage all employees to improve customer service and move Ohio EPA closer to excellence in its many activities.

The Agency's Waste Out program continues to be a success. Employees' suggestions have saved resources, time and money for the State of Ohio.



The Wright Brothers
talk about Ohio EPA's Waste Out program

*"It's plain and simple:
eliminating waste
is a great flight plan."
Keep those
Waste Out ideas
flying!*

Waste Out

www.epa.state.oh.us/dir/wasteoutform.htm

District Activities

To manage Ohio EPA's programs at the local level, the state is served by five district offices: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast and Central District personnel review permit applications, evaluate sites for proposed facilities, investigate complaints, inspect facilities, identify environmental violations and prepare recommendations for enforcement, provide technical assistance and maintain contact with the public.

This chart summarizes the output for some of the main district activities in State Fiscal Year 2003.

Permitting

Operating

Major air sources (Draft Title V)	52
Wastewater discharge (NPDES)	624

Installation and Plan Approvals

Air PTIs	735
Wastewater PTIs	2252
Drinking water plan reviews	1655
Ground water reviews	3519
Solid Waste PTIs, certifications, closure plans	117
Hazardous waste permit modifications, certifications, closure plans	131

Inspections

Air	559
Wastewater and storm water	3640
Drinking water	3187
Solid waste	1005
Hazardous waste	1913
Spill prevention & control	71

Monitoring

Air monitors checked	89
Surface water ambient sites checked	38
Surface water survey samples collected	1950
Ground water ambient wells sampled	233

Cleanups

Active sites	383
Spill responses	1357

Central District Office

Air staff at the district worked with central office to develop the Compliance Evaluation Tracking Application (CETA) for program use statewide. The original purpose of this initiative was to satisfy a U.S. EPA grant requirement to establish an electronic submission of compliance data to the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS). CETA has been expanded to include additional aspects of compliance monitoring.

Air staff also issued a draft synthetic minor permit for a unique tire pyrolysis installation. The proposed facility, if built and operated according to plan, would pyrolyze tires yielding carbon black, with a minimal amount of toxic pollutants being emitted. The proposed facility has the potential to help reduce the problem of waste tires, while producing a useful product. This particular process would be the only facility of its kind in the country. The development of the permit required many hours of research and diligence by district personnel.

During SFY'03, staff from Hazardous Waste Management and the Small Business Assistance office, conducted an initiative to help determine and improve the compliance status of automobile salvage yards. These sites had

received very little attention from Ohio EPA in the past. The initiative targeted 69 Bureau of Motor Vehicle registered sites in the district. The Agency mailed compliance assistance guidance to each facility and in July 2002, staff visited 55 sites. Violations were found at 60 percent of the facilities inspected. The most common compliance issues included improper used oil container labeling and used oil releases to the environment. All violations noted during the inspections were resolved.

Division of Surface Water staff in the district made sure the ambient water quality network was maintained for the central Ohio area. Numerous water quality surveys were conducted, including eight toxic bioassays of major wastewater treatment plants. Staff also completed nine Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) projects including Delco Water Co (Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Lewis Center Water Treatment Plants), Delaware (city), Sunbury, Ashley, Lake-of-the-Woods, Washington Court House and Westerville. Staff also cooperated with Columbus on SWAP projects for its Dublin Road and Hap Cremean water treatment plants.

To satisfy commitments for the U.S. EPA Superfund Consolidated Cooperative Agreement, staff completed a five-year review for Bowers Landfill and five screenings for Franz Landfill, St. Albans Dump, Town Run, Up Alum Creek Corp. Property and Westerville Landfill. The screenings were completed to determine if the sites should be entered into U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). Pre-CERCLIS screenings allow an initial low-cost look at potential sites to ensure that uncontaminated sites or sites ineligible under CERCLA are not unnecessarily entered into CERCLIS for further Superfund-financed assessment activities. Pre-CERCLIS Screenings can include:

- Background information of ownership of site.
- Geological makeup of the property.
- Production history of the site.
- Field test samples to determine if any hazardous substances are present.



Outreach is an important part of Ohio EPA's mission. Here, a northwest district office staff member demonstrates how even common substances like powdered coffee creamer can ignite under the right conditions.

Northeast District Office

Drinking Water staff provided assistance to numerous public water systems applying for State Revolving Loan Fund monies. Six systems received funding totaling more than \$45.8 million, including a \$31.6 million loan to Cleveland. Staff assisted community water systems with security concerns, emergency planning efforts and provided technical assistance to water systems facing ground water contamination problems. Ground water staff implemented a plan to reduce and eliminate project review backlogs and to improve on-time performance. In addition, staff met their goal of completing 75 percent of community system Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) reports by May 31, 2003.

Surface water staff continued to help create procedures for establishing water quality criteria to protect primary headwater streams. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects were developed and implemented for Middle Cuyahoga River, Sugar Creek,

Upper and Lower Cuyahoga River and Rocky River. The division exceeded its goal of reducing the backlog of wastewater discharge (NPDES) permit renewals to below 10 percent, provided assistance in developing 401 program and stream mitigation guidelines and completed SWAP evaluations for all surface water supplies.

Division of Emergency and Remedial Response staff provided more than 3,000 hours of Voluntary Action Program (VAP) technical assistance and outreach to volunteers, including numerous cities. Six covenants not to sue and two urban setting designations were issued for northeastern Ohio properties and seven properties received Clean Ohio Revitalization funds. Staff responded to 375 spills, collected more than 260 pounds of mercury in the recovery program and oversaw the installation of treatment units in nine homes to address solvent contamination from the Bison Corporation in Canton. Thermal destruction of two load lines was completed at the Ravenna Ar-

senal. Division of Air Pollution Control staff provided 2.5 full-time equivalents of assistance to the Cleveland Division of Air Quality and succeeded in improving Cleveland's performance in both inspection and permit recommendation quality. Staff completed the draft issuance of all of its Title V permits, and maintained the timeliness and quality of its permit-to-install recommendations.

Division of Solid and Infectious Management staff oversaw tire cleanups at numerous locations throughout northeast Ohio for the successful removal of over 1.2 million abandoned tires. Staff completed 313 inspections and referred four sites for enforcement.

Division of Hazardous Waste Management staff processed several hazardous waste facility permit renewal applications, including the Ross and WTI facilities. In addition, staff conducted 255 inspections and referred 20 cases for enforcement.

Northwest District Office

Several staff members helped northwest Ohio counties recover after devastating tornados in November 2002 and severe flooding in 2003.

Solid waste staff oversaw 19 open dump and scrap tire site cleanups resulting in the removal of nearly 70,000 tires and 700 tons of solid waste. The hazardous waste group continued to improve its review of closure documents, approving 13 closure plans and six closure certifications during SFY'03, 60 percent more than in previous years. Approximately 51,350 tons of contaminated material were properly managed through these efforts.

Division of Emergency and Remedial Re-

sponse staff worked with U.S. EPA to oversee removal of 25,000 tons of creosote-contaminated sediment from a one-mile segment of the Little Scioto River in Marion County. Through the Voluntary Action Program, six covenants not to sue were issued for properties throughout northwest Ohio.

The Division of Surface Water finished the year with only 8.5 percent of its permits backlogged, exceeding a new statewide goal of 10 percent. In addition, staff drafted all scheduled major discharge permits and 25 new minor discharge permits.

When the Title V program began, the district had 143 permits to process, more than any Ohio EPA district. The district exceeded its commitment to issue 75 percent of remaining permits by issuing more than 80 percent in draft form by May 1, 2003.

Mary Beth Cohen - Tom Hagerty Award

Mary Beth Cohen, an Environmental Specialist II in NWDO's Division of Surface Water, received the 2003 Tom Hagerty Award from the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA). This award recognizes public agency employees who unselfishly provide guidance and assistance to wastewater plant operators and superintendents as a part of their duties. Emphasis is placed on a candidate's direct involvement with assisting plant operators in the understanding of regulatory requirements, plant operations, state certification and operator training.

Southeast District Office

The air program was active with issues surrounding American Electric Power's (AEP) agreement to purchase the Village of Cheshire. Staff continue to work with U.S. EPA on the investigation of elevated manganese levels in the Marietta area.

Surface water staff drafted 118 minor wastewater discharge permits to reduce the backlog to 10 percent. The district is currently managing 22 active local water quality grants with a total project cost of over \$8 million and has completed six Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) reports.

The district represented Ohio EPA as members of a multi-governmental focus group to address C-8 contamination issues in the Washington and Meigs County areas. Staff also completed SWAP reports for more than 75 percent of the community drinking water systems and provided information and technical assistance during the snowstorm that affected public water supplies in several counties.

Staff in the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management oversaw 25 open dump and scrap tire cleanups, including the Timco Tire Dump, and worked to close the Pine

Hollow Construction and Demolition Debris landfill. They continue to manage the removal of 10,000 tons of tobacco from the Biomass site in Lawrence County. The Cytex Marietta facility remediation and demolition efforts were successful and will lead to the elimination of DDT contamination in Duck Creek.

Division of Emergency and Remedial Response staff met a number of major cleanup milestones including completion of four remedial designs and five remedial actions for cleanups of contaminated sites.

Southwest District Office

Southwest District Office continued effective interaction with the community through training and outreach. The district held training for 150 operators and regulators on effective landfill operations, gave presentations to local communities on Clean Ohio Fund opportunities and worked with the Small Business Assistance Office on a salvage yard compliance assistance video.

Staff participated with other local organizations in classrooms, fairs and conferences helping to promote environmental compliance, awareness and stewardship and reaching thousands of interested people. SWDO also contributed to the community in personal ways by again being a governmental leader in Combined Charitable Campaign giving as well as competing in the

Dayton-area Battle of the Businesses to support the Special Olympics, raising \$2,500 and placing first in both its division and among all government organizations.

Staff investigations and enforcement activities included resolution of two drinking water operator falsification cases, investigations to identify contamination sources at the Troy, Miamisburg, Milford and Urbana-Mad River well fields, response to 385 spills, a study with U.S. EPA of arsenic in distribution systems and a major effort to address lead contamination from a former shooting range at a local subdivision.

Other noteworthy accomplishments include getting the owners of six closed landfills to

address explosive gas concerns and the removal of more than 42,000 drums of hazardous waste from the closed Valleycrest Landfill in Dayton.

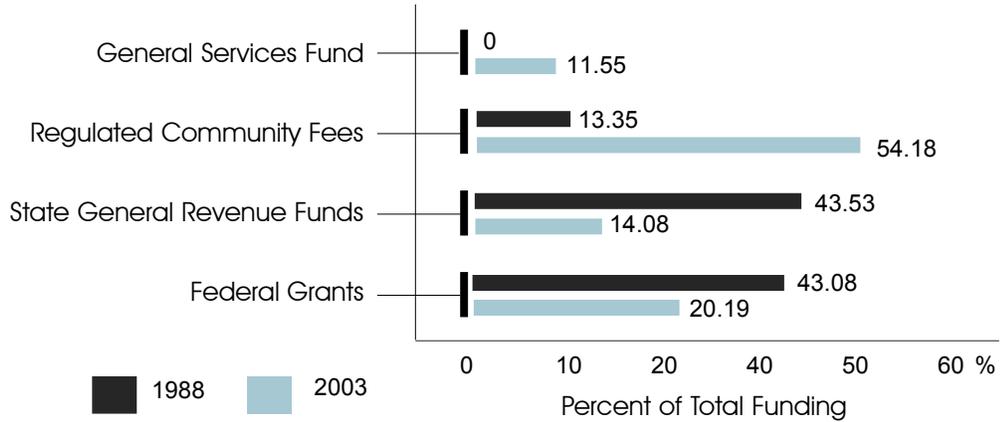
The district water quality unit undertook extensive sampling to support enforcement efforts while also conducting water quality surveys in Mill Creek and Seven Mile Creek. Major permit actions include the Rumpke Landfill vertical expansion and certification of the closure of the Hilton Davis lagoons.

Each year, staff from the southwest district office compete in the Battle of the Businesses. Proceeds from the event benefit the Special Olympics.



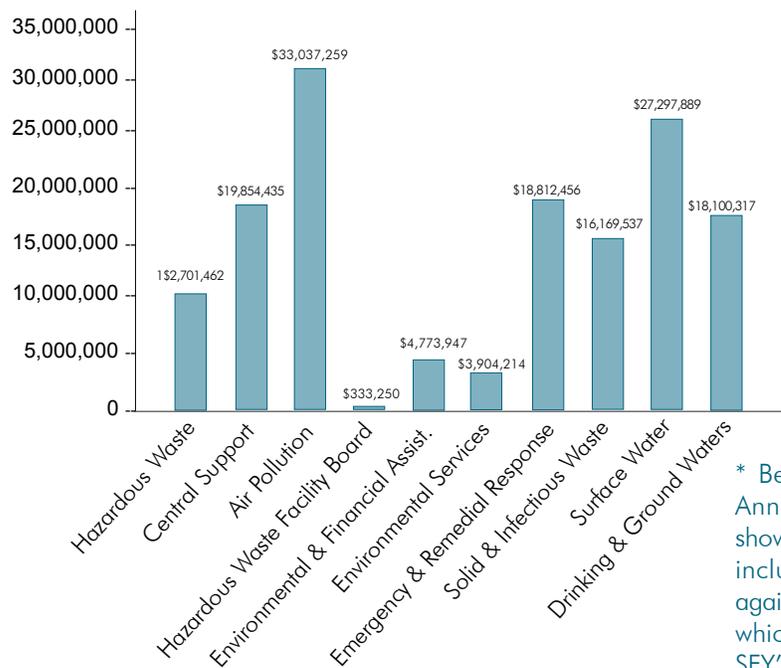


HISTORICAL TRENDS IN FUNDING



This chart shows how the sources of Ohio EPA's funding have changed significantly over the last 15 years. In 1987, nearly all of the Agency's funding came from state and federal sources. Now, more than half comes from fees charged to the regulated community.

OHIO EPA TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS - SFY'03 (All Funding Sources \$154,984,765*)



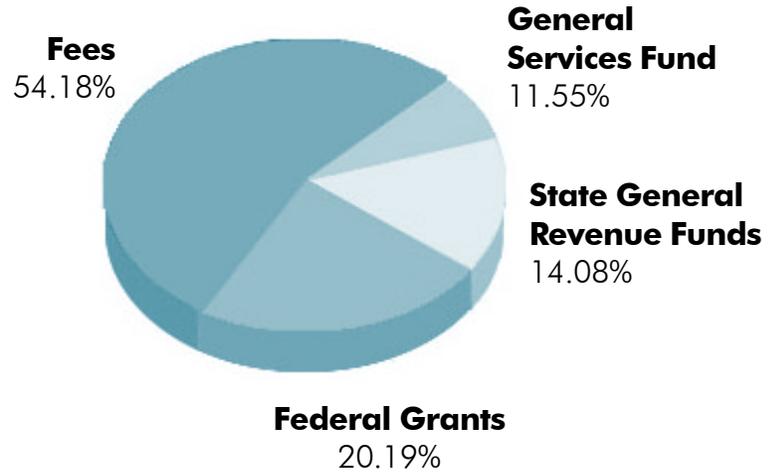
* Beginning with the SFY'03 Annual Report, the amounts shown for Agency spending will include disbursements made against prior year encumbrances which totaled \$7.1 million in SFY'03.

State Fiscal Year 2002-2003

(July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003)

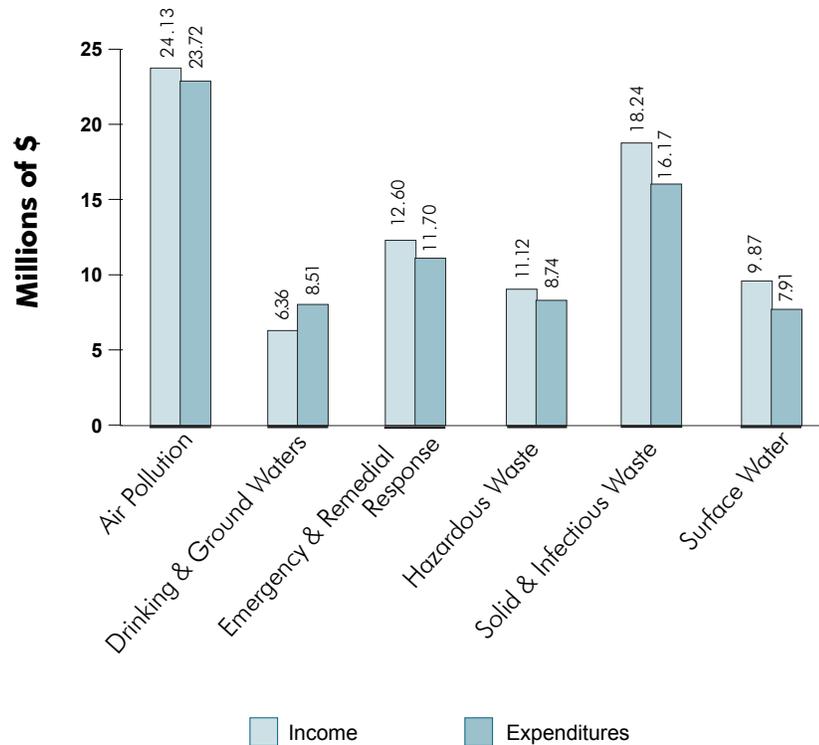


DISBURSEMENTS BY FUND TYPE



FEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

by Program-SFY'03



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