

The logo for OhioEPA, featuring the word "Ohio" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "EPA" in a similar font. A small green leaf icon is positioned between the "o" and "E".

OhioEPA

2007 Annual Report

State Fiscal Year 2007

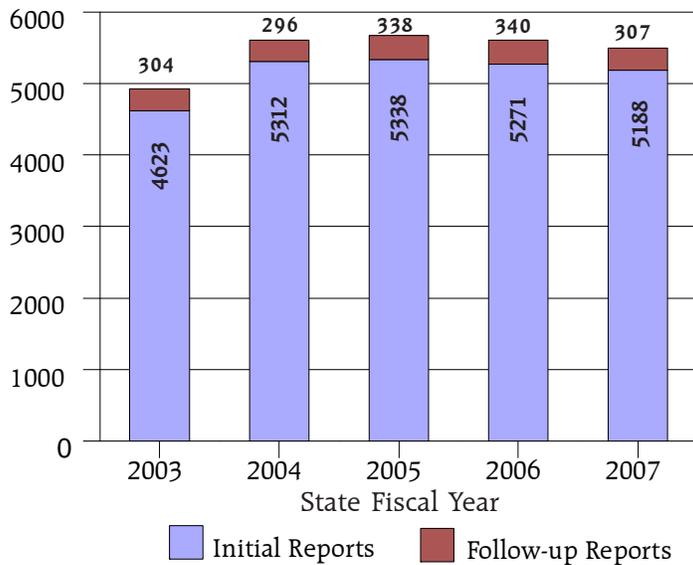
Division of Emergency and Remedial Response

Emergency Response

Ohio EPA's Emergency Response (ER) program received 10,184 calls on the spill hotline in State Fiscal Year 2007 (SFY'07). ER completed 5,188 Initial Pollution Incident Reports and 307 additional reports on previously reported incidents.

Staff responded to the scene to investigate 1,254 incidents and provided technical assistance by phone regarding an additional 436 incidents.

Initial Pollution Incident Reports

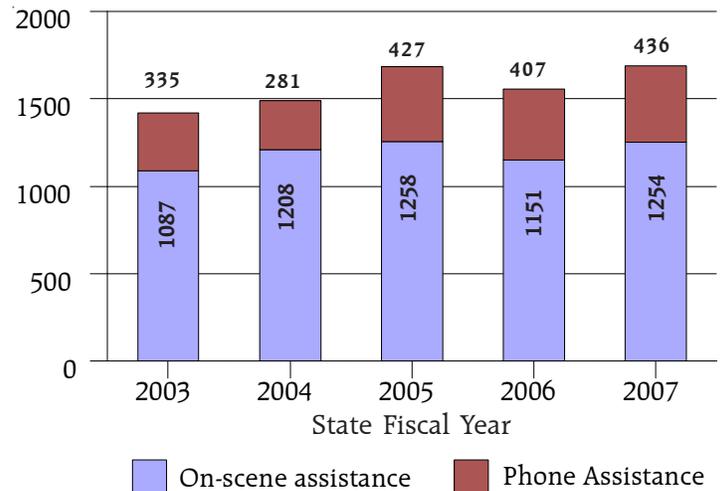


In SFY'07, the ER program collected approximately 1,004 pounds of mercury for disposal at Bowling Green State University's Elemental Mercury Collection and Reclamation Program. Duty officers recorded 245 reports concerning mercury. On-scene coordinators responded to 159 of these incidents and provided technical assistance by phone in 33 more.

Ohio EPA participated in two graded exercises at the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear power plants. The exercises were supervised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. No deficiencies were identified but suggested improvements will be incorporated into the State and Agency response plans.

The "Spill of National Significance 2007" Exercise (SONS 07) brought together federal, state, local, corporate and volunteer response personnel in five full-scale exercises in Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Paducah and Evansville which focused on oil and hazardous substance releases from a simulated earthquake. It was the first national-level disaster exercise since Hurricane Katrina in 2004, and the first to test the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and updated National Response Plan (NRP). ER helped design the exercise and provided assistance to Indiana on the response to three simulated oil spill incidents in Evansville.

Spill Responses



Site Assessment and Brownfield Revitalization Program (SABR)

The SABR program serves as the first point of contact for those who have questions or concerns about brownfield properties. SABR assists the Ohio Department of Development with the management of the Clean Ohio Fund, providing technical assistance to applicants, reviewing applications and reviewing completed cleanups for compliance with applicable standards.

Ohio EPA assesses sites where there is suspected contamination to determine whether there is a threat to human health or the environment requiring a remedial action. During SFY'07, Ohio EPA conducted site assessments at 20 federal-lead sites to evaluate whether they are eligible for cleanup by U.S. EPA under the federal Superfund program.



Eight targeted brownfield assessments (TBAs) were conducted during SFY'07 to determine if contamination exists at properties around the state. TBAs are conducted at the request of local governments at no cost to their communities. The results of these assessments can aid communities in planning for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties. To date, Ohio EPA has assessed more than 979 acres at 33 properties.

Remedial Response

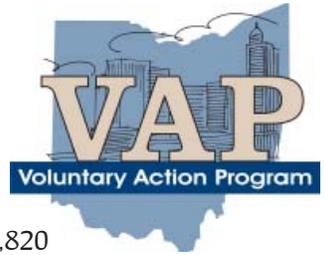
The division reached a consensual agreement with Diamond Shamrock to clean up two areas of the Diamond Shamrock Painesville Works Site in Lake County. The responsible parties have indicated that cleanup will help facilitate redevelopment of the site into Lakeview Bluffs, a sports-oriented resort community.

The division reached a consensual agreement with Ashland Specialty Chemical to plan and implement operation and maintenance activities at the company's facility in Ashland. This agreement will ensure that public access to the site is limited and that ground water monitoring wells are abandoned appropriately to eliminate the potential for any contaminant to leach to ground water via the wells.

The division also developed and issued cleanup plans to protect human health and the environment in and around the Glacier Clevite Heavywall Bearings facility located near McConnellsville; the Diamond Shamrock Painesville Works site in Painesville Township; the Georgia Pacific site in Columbus; the North Guernsey Street site in St. Clairsville; and Landfill #6 at the Southwestern Portland Cement Company site near Fairborn.

Voluntary Action Program (VAP)

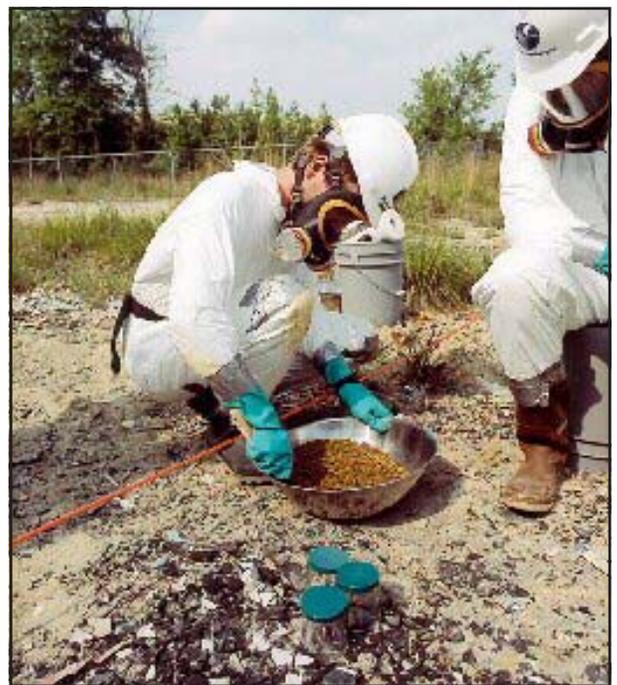
Ohio EPA issued 18 covenants not to sue, resulting in approximately 70 acres of land being deemed protective of human health and the environment and available for productive reuse. Since the inception of the VAP, at least 3,820 acres of Ohio land have been made available for reuse.



The program provided technical assistance to 100 property owners or volunteers to facilitate voluntary action activities. Twenty-eight were municipalities that received the assistance free of charge through a pass-through brownfields grant from U.S. EPA. The assistance allowed the municipalities to make significant progress with their site assessments and cleanups.

Division of Hazardous Waste Management

The Division of Hazardous Waste Management provided technical assistance/educational outreach to the public and the regulated community through 943 phone calls, 143 faxes/e-mails/documents/letters and Answer Place requests, 12 presentations to several hundred people and 17 newsletter articles.



Staff completed the review of more than 1,100 Hazardous Waste Annual Reports submitted by large hazardous waste generators and commercial treatment and disposal facilities for calendar year 2006. More than

625 of these came to Ohio EPA electronically, saving the reporters time and money and enabling the division to review and process them more efficiently. The information helps Ohio EPA track hazardous waste generation and movement within, into and out of Ohio.

The division conducted 559 compliance evaluation inspections, including comprehensive inspections at 79 hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities and 190 large quantity hazardous waste generators.

Through Ohio EPA's Cessation of Regulated Operations program, staff inspected 29 facilities to verify that all regulated substances were removed from closed facilities and managed properly.

The division issued 40 administrative enforcement orders that included \$904,995 in civil penalties. Through the Attorney General's Office, the program also executed four judicial consent orders that included \$32,500 in civil penalties.

Staff approved closure/cleanup plans for hazardous waste management areas at eight facilities and certified the completion of closure/cleanups of such areas at seven facilities.

The division made final remedy decisions at 10 facilities required to investigate potential contamination under the division's corrective action program. These decisions required active cleanup measures to be implemented through plans approved by Ohio EPA. Staff also verified active cleanup measures were implemented in accordance with approved plans at nine facilities.

Staff issued three hazardous waste operating permit renewals for treatment, storage and/or disposal facilities and processed 216 hazardous waste permit modifications.

Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters completed the most comprehensive evaluation and revision of its public water system on-site inspection program in 25 years. This revised process will better ensure public water systems can maintain compliance with Ohio's safe drinking water regulations.

The division continued emphasizing the importance of having competent individuals operating public water systems in Ohio. Rules better defining expectations for operators were



Success Story

The City of Chardon faced a capital expense of \$6.5 million to remove arsenic from their drinking water. Like many other communities, they chose a low-interest loan from the WSRLA to build their improvements. Their two percent interest rate saved residents \$2.1 million.

finalized. The division also partnered with The Ohio State University to complete detailed job analyses for certified operators. These analyses will be used to update training materials, develop exam questions, validate exams and educate facility owners on the importance of the certified operator. The Class A training program began in September of 2006 with more than 1,000 Class A operators trained and tested.

Staff continued efforts to increase security at public water systems. The division is helping develop a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) in Ohio. It will support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. Staff also worked with U.S. EPA to hold a Water Sector Incident Command Structure Workshop, develop a Pandemic Flu Guidance for Water and Wastewater Operators and Owners, develop a "Partners in Protection" brochure for law enforcement organizations, and develop the first of two in a series of emergency preparedness guides for water system owners and operators.

The division completed migration to U.S.EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System, which should save the state \$50,000 in annual maintenance costs and more than \$2 million in replacement costs for its old system. More importantly, it will serve as a better tool to determine and track compliance at Ohio's public water systems

For SFY'07, 95 percent of community water systems received water that met all health-based water quality standards. The division prioritized systems exceeding the maximum contaminant level for arsenic, nitrate and disinfection by-products for enforcement. Out of 140 priority systems, 84 systems were addressed through compliance assistance and enforcement efforts. A total of \$158,190 was assessed in penalties, including environmental projects valued at \$83,965.

The division advanced the protection of the water resources being used as a source of public drinking water during 2007. It endorsed 10 community Drinking Water Source Protection Plans. Throughout Ohio, 77 community public water systems serving 3.1 million residents now have a local plan to protect their source of drinking water.

Drinking water source protection measures were incorporated in the rules governing land application of treated wastewater; the rules became effective July 1,

2007. Ohio EPA also started to require major wastewater discharges located within 10 miles of a drinking water supply intake to notify the downstream public water system operator(s) in the event of a plant upset, spill, sanitary sewer overflow or other unexpected discharge.

The division completed several projects to better characterize and help guide future protection of ground water resources in Ohio. Two new documents were finalized regarding Ohio's ground water resources: "Identifying Sensitive Aquifers in Ohio" and "Report of Findings, Unsafe Water Supply Investigation, Wooster Township, Wayne County, Ohio." The division completed a ground water dye trace investigation in a sensitive "karst" aquifer in Mad River Township, Clark County. The division also established a database and began compiling information on known cases of ground water contamination.

The division required closure of 396 industrial, large capacity cesspool and motor vehicle waste disposal (MVWD) Class V wells. These wells have significant potential to contaminate ground water. Eighty-seven percent of the known MVWD wells in Ohio are now closed.

Twenty-eight binding loan commitments totaling \$65,110,960 were authorized in SFY'07 from the Water Supply Revolving Loan program. One loan was for planning and/or design; the other 27 were for improvements to distribution and transmission lines, storage, treatment or plant facilities and/or source.

Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

The Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management administers programs to ensure the proper planning and management of Ohio's annual generation of 33 million tons of solid waste. This involves oversight of Ohio's 52 solid waste management districts and 81 approved local health district programs.

In SFY'07, the division approved three new facilities to compost dead animals (road kill). There is an increasing demand for these types of facilities due to a lack of convenient disposal options. These approvals created new management options that also result in a usable, agronomically desirable product.

In addition, two educational institutions registered as composting facilities in SFY'07 so that they could turn a portion of their food scraps waste into a usable and beneficial product for landscaping and save money on their disposal costs.

The division devoted a considerable amount of time to investigating Countywide Landfill, which resulted in the issuance of orders to the landfill regarding a subsurface fire. Ohio EPA hired consultants and



coordinated with U.S. EPA to get assistance in the investigation and evaluation of the fire.

Staff approved 11 solid waste management plans during SFY'07, and issued solid waste management plans to the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne and Allen-Champaign-Hardin-Madison-Shelby-Union solid waste management districts.

The division provides oversight of 66 construction and demolition debris (C&DD) landfills. Ohio's regulation of these facilities was strengthened significantly when House Bill 397 was signed into law in December 2005. On August 1, 2006, the division issued draft C&DD rules that incorporated the new requirements of House Bill 397. These new requirements include improved siting criteria, background checks of owners/operators; improved ground water monitoring, and financial assurance for closure and post-closure care. During the remainder of SFY'07, considerable time was spent addressing public comments on the draft rules.

During SFY'07, private contractors funded by the division's scrap tire program removed more than three million scrap passenger tire equivalents (PTEs) from the Kirby site and almost 200,000 PTEs from 18 other sites. This represents more than 40,000 tons of tire materials. More than 80 percent of this material continues to be recycled and reused in civil engineering projects, as tire-derived fuel and for the production of many rubber products.

In addition to the Kirby tire cleanup, other scrap tire cleanups included: the Moore Site in Columbiana County (71,506 PTEs); the Abbott site in Adams County (23,798 PTEs); the Crestline site in Richland County (19,485 PTEs during completion of cleanup); the Mercer site in Jackson County (7,247 PTEs, partial cleanup); and the Long site in Clermont County (1,361 PTEs). Thirteen other sites, each with fewer than 2,000 tires, were also remediated under consensual agreements.

The division also prepared a report for the Ohio General Assembly titled "Scrap Tire Management in Ohio" and produced a DVD titled "Mired in Tires: New Ways to Manage an Old Menace."

Division of Air Pollution Control

Air Quality

Ohio EPA operates one of the country's most extensive air pollution monitoring networks, comprised of 245 ambient air monitors, including 49 ozone monitors. During SFY'07, the Agency successfully redesignated Allen, Belmont, Jefferson, Stark and Washington counties to attainment for the eight-hour ozone standard. The Agency also submitted a request to redesignate Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown, involving 15 counties during SFY'07.

In SFY '07, Ohio EPA adopted a rule that established a list of 303 toxic air contaminants based on a review of scientific information by the Agency's toxicologists. The Agency also adopted the Clean Air Mercury Rules, which establish a cap and trade program for annual mercury emissions from coal-fired electrical generating units. In addition, Ohio EPA began assisting the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry with a health study in Washington County by conducting air sampling and analysis for manganese and other airborne metals.

Efficient Permitting

Ohio EPA continued to streamline permit issuance. The division issued 986 air permits-to-install (PTIs) in SFY'07. It completed more than 90 percent of permit application completeness reviews within 14 days, and issued more than 90 percent of the permits within 180 days. Ohio EPA maintains an ongoing workload of approximately 300 PTI applications. The division issued eight final permits-to-install to ethanol plants, which are an important part of future energy production in the State.

Continuous Improvements in Efficiency

The division fully implemented the general permit program and the permit-by-rule program. The Agency adopted rule changes to allow facilities with smaller sources of air pollution to begin limited construction activities prior to receiving a PTI. In May 2007, staff began to work with the Advantage Ohio Permit Improvement Workgroup.

The division is working with a private contractor to rebuild the STARS system, a software package to help the regulated community prepare and submit electronic permit applications and reports. The Agency also developed and implemented a system in SFY'07 that allows facilities submitting toxic release inventory reports to use the federal central data exchange to submit reports simultaneously to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA, eliminating duplicate reporting.

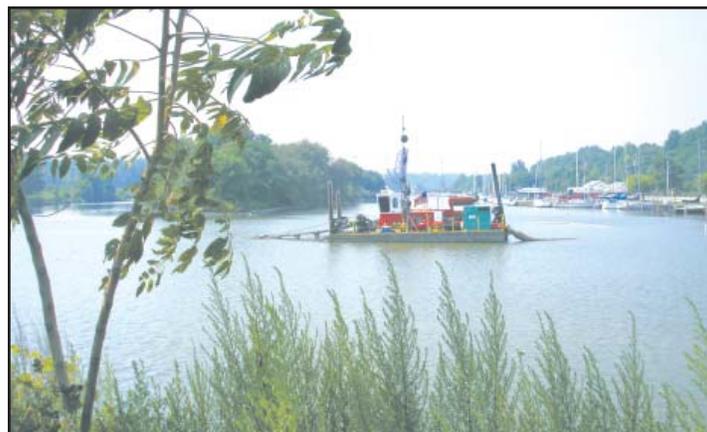
Compliance and Enforcement

In SFY'07, Ohio EPA determined that the compliance rate of 1,636 high-priority facilities (those that operate large sources of air pollution) was 96 percent. The division resolved 113 enforcement cases, which included issuing 40 final administrative orders.

Division of Surface Water

Actions to Improve Water Quality

The Ashtabula River became the first Ohio project to utilize the provisions of the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) of 2002. The GLLA provides funding for the remediation of contaminated sediments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern.



Ashtabula River Dredging Project

Dredging began in September 2006 and approximately 600,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed by October 2007. The \$50 million project was funded by \$25 million from the GLLA, \$7 million from the State of Ohio and the rest from local partners. The sediment removal brings the river very close to delisting as an Area of Concern. More than 20 years of effort have gone into trying to remediate the river, and the dredging was finally accomplished by a partnership of diverse and committed federal, state and local stakeholders.

In response to the resurgence of algal blooms in Lake Erie and evidence that the loading of bioavailable phosphorus from rivers is increasing, Ohio EPA established the Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force in March 2007. The group includes a diverse mix of state, federal, academic, agricultural and municipal representatives. They will examine the current information, determine the sources of phosphorus and recommend management actions that may improve and protect the lake.

As of July 1, 2007, the division had reached agreement with 70 percent of the Ohio communities with combined sewer overflows to install controls required by federal and state law.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses are completed or in progress in more than half of Ohio's watersheds. TMDLs in 64 of Ohio's 331 watershed assessment units were completed and work is underway in an additional 105 units.

The division awarded \$3,268,378 in federal funds for 11 projects that include stream and wetland restoration, acid mine drainage abatement, conservation easement acquisition and source water protection.

Staff completed a comprehensive update to the State's Water Quality Management Plan and areawide waste treatment management plans in September 2006. Five regional planning agencies updated their plans within the last year and Ohio EPA updated plan content covering 42 additional counties. These plans contain information used to address both municipal wastewater treatment issues and nonpoint source pollution management control.

The division issued 61 enforcement orders, the highest number of cases resolved by the division since 1992. The orders included more than \$400,000 in cash penalties and \$200,000 toward implementation of supplemental environmental projects. Through negotiated administrative orders, approximately 1,000 failing septic systems will soon be eliminated and receive centralized sanitary sewer service.

Rules

Ohio became one of the first states to adopt new federal pretreatment streamlining rules. These rules reduce the regulatory burden on industry and municipalities while continuing to protect the environment.



Microcystis Blooms in Western Basin of Lake Erie

The division adopted revised rules that ask for signs at wastewater discharge outfalls, include enhanced notification to downstream water supplies, streamline some administrative issues and set phosphorus limits on certain dischargers in the Lake Erie basin and publicly owned lakes and reservoirs.

Ohio EPA adopted water quality trading rules that should lead to a more cost-effective way to achieve water quality standards in Ohio's waters and provide economic incentives for reductions in nonpoint source pollution, which is a major cause of water quality impairment in Ohio.

Permits

The division issued 40 major discharge permits to meet the issuance and backlog goal. Staff also met permit issuance and backlog goals in the pretreatment program. The program also issued three new general discharge permits covering hydrostatic test water, water treatment plants and temporary wastewater discharges.

Staff developed a comprehensive tracking and management database for the Storm Water Application Notice of Intent System (SWANS). The list of current permit holders with storm water general permits will be automatically updated and made available on the division's Web page.

Staff finalized and began implementation of the basin-specific discharge permit for storm water associated with construction activity in the Big Darby Creek watershed.

The division worked with the Clean Marinas Program to develop an alternative general permit for marinas, and developed educational materials, including a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan template to assist operators in complying with permit conditions.

Outreach

Working with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the division developed an innovative strategy to assess and manage water quality in agricultural watersheds where drainage improvements must be made. Steps are underway to implement the strategy.

The Agency released the 2007 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory in cooperation with the Ohio departments of Health and Natural Resources.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Water Supply Revolving Loans

Ohio's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) surpassed the \$500 million assistance mark.

The \$65.1 million loaned in 2007 was for 28 projects to protect the quantity and quality of drinking water, and saved 26 communities \$16.9 million. Fourteen of those loans went to small, economically challenged systems that saved \$9.2 million through financing of \$25.5 million for design and construction.

2007 Drinking Water Loans	
Water transmission and distribution lines	\$16,936,818
Water treatment facilities	\$25,204,287
Storage tanks and development of water sources	\$11,269,865
Source water protection	\$11,700,000
TOTAL	\$65,110,970

Water Pollution Control Loans

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) provided \$280 million for water quality, bringing its total assistance to \$3.8 billion.

Forty-seven communities received \$258 million for 61 projects, saving them more than \$66 million.

Staff assisted 28 small and economically disadvantaged communities who saved \$26.3 million in interest on loans totaling \$59.6 million for facilities planning, design and construction.

Success Story

Too often small communities cannot build centralized sewer and treatment systems due to poor economies of scale and residents' limited incomes. The Village of Amesville (population 184) is the first community in Ohio to receive a discharge permit that allows multiple locations for the release of treated wastewater. Amesville also received a \$415,000 WPCLF zero-percent loan to complete their funding package. The village will save an estimated \$228,000 over the 20-year life of the loan.

Full cost subsidies totaling \$13.4 million for the protection and restoration of aquatic habitats and wetlands were awarded to nine projects in the Darby Creek, Little Miami and Cuyahoga River watersheds.

A total of 193 private borrowers received interest rate reductions on loans totaling \$8.3 million to control nonpoint source water pollution. This included more than \$6.8 million to agricultural producers, \$1.3 million to master loggers, and \$132,000 to individual homeowners for home sewage treatment system improvements. Overall, these recipients saved more than \$1.2 million when compared to the cost of conventional financing.

2007 Water Quality Assistance	
Wastewater treatment facilities	\$152,494,375
Rehab/replacement of existing sewers	\$37,433,814
New sewer & interceptor construction	\$22,674,968
Combined sewer overflow control	\$44,212,606
Crop agriculture practices	\$6,870,772
Animal agriculture practices	\$5,847
Storm water control	\$1,573,114
Silviculture practices	\$1,370,582
Aquatic habitat restoration/protection	\$13,450,966
Home sewage system improvements	\$132,910
TOTAL	\$280,219,953

Division of Environmental Services

In SFY'07, the Agency's analytical laboratory analyzed 9,426 chemistry and bioassay samples, including samples of surface water (6,631), drinking water (387), ground water (706), air (743), fish tissue (676) and sediment (283). They reported 173,595 inorganic and 122,361 organic test results and added enhanced methods for analyses of metals, nutrients, and chemical oxygen demand.

Lab staff reviewed 150 laboratory documents, audited nine laboratories and issued 18 certification actions and nine suspensions or revocations for the Voluntary Action Program laboratory certification program. They also conducted 372 chemistry and 126 microbiology lab surveys and reviewed 304 applications, 27 plans and 106 correction statements for the drinking water laboratory certification program. The division also issued two newsletters on drinking water laboratory policies and procedures, each to 375 laboratories.

The lab issued 12 performance audit reports from inspections conducted at wastewater laboratories participating in U.S. EPA's Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance program.

Staff responded to 3,554 technical assistance requests from individuals outside Ohio EPA, 1,575 technical assistance requests from Ohio EPA staff and 1,514 sample submission coordination calls.

The lab received certification for all requested tests following U.S. EPA's triennial audit of the division's operations as the state's primary drinking water lab.

Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) is an independent office within Ohio EPA that provides information and resources to help businesses achieve compliance with environmental requirements.



Another primary goal of the office is to help its customers identify and implement pollution prevention measures that can save money, increase business performance and benefit the environment. Information obtained by OCAPP is not shared with Ohio EPA inspection or enforcement staff.

In SFY'07, the office helped more than 2,220 Ohio businesses and 960 other external customers with their pollution prevention and compliance needs and conducted 208 site visits to help Ohio companies with compliance and pollution prevention projects.

They conducted 38 presentations and training events to help educate Ohio businesses and organizations about pollution prevention and environmental compliance reaching nearly 2,000 individuals. Staff also distributed 40,619 publications, published four editions of the *Compliance and Prevention Quarterly* newsletter for distribution to more than 5,700 people and developed 48 new publications to show companies how to prevent pollution and comply with environmental requirements.

The office helped coordinate Ohio EPA's Compliance Assistance Conference, "Successfully Navigating Reporting, Permitting and Inspections," on March 22 in Columbus. They also became fully staffed by having one compliance assistance specialist at each of the five district offices.

To reduce the impact of mercury, OCAPP launched Ohio's voluntary mercury switch collection/incentive program for auto recyclers. During SFY'07, Ohio EPA awarded \$58,098 in incentive funds and 19,366 switches were collected. The staff also helped facilitate the passage of a new Ohio law that bans the purchase of mercury-containing devices by schools. It also bans the sale of thermostats, thermometers and novelty items that contain mercury. House Bill 443 took effect in April 2007.



Office of Environmental Education

During the fall 2006 and spring 2007 grant cycles, the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund awarded \$681,465 to 12 school districts to retrofit 148 school buses with pollution control equipment, and remove nearly two tons of pollution from the air. Funding for the grants comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's pollution control laws. Since 2006, Ohio EPA has awarded \$1.1 million to install pollution control equipment on 386 school buses statewide, removing more than five tons of pollutants from the air.



The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) awarded \$1,003,515 in grants for education projects targeting pre-school through university students and teachers (\$486,082 or 49 percent), the adult general public (\$374,759 or 37 percent) and the regulated community (\$142,674 or 14 percent). These grants are funded from civil penalties for pollution violations. OEEF has awarded grants to entities in 81 of Ohio's 88 counties.

The Ohio Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarship Program awarded \$50,000 for 22 scholarships to students at Ohio colleges and universities. To interest younger students in environmental careers, the office sponsors State Science Day, the National Engineers Week Future City Competition in Ohio for middle school students, the Ohio Envirothon competition for high school students, and efforts to bring environmental professionals into Ohio classrooms and school career day events.



Legislative Affairs

Ohio EPA initiated legislation sponsored by Senator Spada and Representative Peterson aimed at reducing the release of mercury to the environment



through consumer products, thermostats and mercury-containing devices in schools. All of the Great Lakes states have now adopted some form of state law dealing with mercury from these sources. Competitively priced alternatives exist for most mercury-bearing thermometers; however, this legislation allowed for exemption of certain devices needed for specific medical or scientific applications. Many cheap novelty or promotional items, many aimed at children, contain mercury either as a component of the item or in a small button-cell battery. This bill became law in January 2007 and took effect in April 2007.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) pursues fair and equal treatment for all individuals employed by or seeking employment with Ohio EPA.

In SFY'07, the EEO Office investigated seven complaints of discrimination, provided counseling on 10 informal complaints, trained 30 new employees in EEO Policies and Procedures and Sexual Harassment and facilitated diversity awareness training for all Agency employees.

The EEO Office developed a Diversity Council consisting of 14 Agency employees dedicated to promoting the enhancement and valuing of diversity at Ohio EPA. In SFY'07, the Diversity Council created a strategic plan that outlines goals for how it will develop and distribute information on diversity topics, hold events related to diversity, seek input and feedback from employees on diversity issues and educate staff by facilitating training.

Office of Fiscal Administration

The Office of Fiscal Administration implemented the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS) payroll application in December 2006. The OAKS project views Ohio's state government as an enterprise, replacing numerous decaying and fragmented systems around the state with one integrated computer system for performing some of the State's primary administrative tasks.



The fiscal office assisted the OAKS Project Management Office by testing and identifying system issues before the implementation. After the payroll conversion, the office continued to work with the OAKS staff to overcome challenges and provide pay and benefits to Ohio EPA's 1,250 employees. The fiscal office also implemented a new accounting structure, provided classroom training to more than 100 employees and worked with the Ohio EPA Office of Information Technology Services to rebuild and deploy a new time accounting system to prepare for the implementation of the OAKS financials application on July 2, 2007.

In addition, the Fiscal Office processed 989 purchase orders and 14,000 payments to vendors for goods and services, deposited 44,000 fee payments to provide cash to support the Agency's operations, provided cash management and financial reporting services for federal grants with disbursements totaling \$528 million, completed 80 evaluations to determine a company's ability to pay penalties in environmental enforcement cases and managed the Agency's \$196 million operating budget.

Operations & Facilities

July 2006 marked the launch of the motor pool on-line reservation application. In addition to being more convenient for employees, this application also provides motor pool employees with historical and financial data they need to produce billing information for fiscal officers.

In January 2007, the motor pool purchased 10 Honda Civic Hybrid automobiles. These Civics provide a 142 percent increase in city MPG and an 84 percent increase in highway MPG over the Ford Taurus flex fuel vehicle on state term contract. The Civics also provide a 93 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions and a 95 percent reduction in non-methane organic compound emissions, compared to the Taurus.

Office of Legal Services

The Office of Legal Services provided support to the divisions in their efforts to meet enforcement goals. During calendar year 2006, Ohio EPA issued 193 administrative orders resulting in \$3,523,386 in administrative penalties.

General counsel work for the divisions included generation of 37 formal opinions and daily informal assistance. The office also provided legal support on 86 administrative rule packages.

Legal also provided advice and guidance on implementation of the new public records requirements that went into effect in September 2007.

Office of Information Technology Services

Staff developed the base eBusiness Center portal, which will provide the framework and common services needed to integrate division-specific services as they are developed.

The office completed development of six new electronic systems, including a new staff time accounting system and an application to help businesses find recyclers and other environmental service vendors in their area.

Staff completed five electronic business system enhancement projects.

The office continued its emphasis on strengthening project management skills. Two additional ITS staff completed project management training.



Office of Employee Services

Staff provided hiring activities such as posting vacancies, recruiting and screening applicants, preparing applicant pools for management review, conducting background checks, offering employment and providing initial orientation. They processed 5,333 applications for 86 vacant positions, hired 82 interns and processed 27 resignations and 26 retirements.

The office administered Ohio EPA's benefits program including health, dental, vision and life insurance. This included processing 89 disability claims and 133 FMLA requests. Staff also coordinated the Agency's Healthy Ohioans Wellness Program.

Staff created and updated 321 electronic position descriptions; maintained the Agency table of organization; performed task analysis reviews; coordinated the Agency's Ohio Performance Review System employee evaluation process; and developed, formulated and implemented Agency employment policies.

The office served as the intake office for Ohio EPA's participation in the State of Ohio Workplace Mediation Program administered by the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management.

Staff actively participated in the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS) project.

Public Interest Center

Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center (PIC) helps ensure that citizens and media receive information about the Agency's activities. During SFY'07, PIC's public involvement staff moderated 135 public meetings or informational sessions and responded to thousands of calls from the public or written requests for Agency information. The staff also helped set up Agency displays and provided information for the Ohio State Fair, Earth Day, Farm Science Review and other community events.

The media relations section issued 359 news releases, responded to 1,976 media inquiries and organized and secured coverage of numerous media events around the state. Field trips were arranged with reporters to attend wetland, stream and lake sampling, as well as observe sampling and assessment of contaminated land.

The print and communications section created eight feature stories for the Agency's Web site, wrote and designed 24 issues of the employee newsletter, updated or edited dozens of publications prepared by the divisions and responded to almost 500 requests for information and assistance sent via the Web page.

District Offices

District office staff review permit applications to control pollution sources such as air emissions or wastewater discharges, monitor compliance with environmental standards, provide technical assistance to help regulated facilities understand and comply with environmental laws and permit requirements, initiate enforcement action against facilities that do not comply with environmental laws and permit requirements and investigate citizen complaints. The successes outlined below are just a few examples of the work done by Ohio EPA's district offices in SFY'07.

Northwest District

As a result of the Agency's unsewered area program, sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment facilities were installed in the Village of Custar in Wood County (to eventually also serve Milton Center) and the Hamlet of Shenandoah in Richland County.

As part of the ongoing hazardous waste corrective action projects at Envirosafe Services of Ohio in Oregon, leachate will be removed from old landfills. The district required the company to install leachate extraction systems for three waste management units. These systems were fully operational on July 1, 2007. Ohio EPA expects the leachate removal from these waste disposal areas, many of which have existed since the 1950s, to have a significant, positive environmental impact over time. The leachate collection system began removing approximately 40,000 gallons of leachate from these areas for proper treatment and disposal.

On July 27, 2006, plating material overflowed into the storm sewer and sanitary sewer when the roof of Morrow Plating, in Toledo, leaked after a heavy rainfall. Staff discovered that Morrow Plating had been illegally pumping wastes from these rain events into a sanitary sewer outlet. Since the current owners of the facility had no resources to fund a cleanup, Ohio EPA asked U.S. EPA to help due to the potential for future releases of hazardous wastes and potential exposures to residents in the neighborhood. U.S. EPA conducted a cleanup from October 2006 through June 2007.

In 1991, routine monitoring revealed contamination of drinking water wells in the Lincoln Heights area of Richland County. In response to this discovery, U.S. EPA designed and constructed a system to contain the contamination. After the construction, Ohio EPA took over the operation of this system. To aid Ohio EPA in the challenges that arise in operating and maintaining the system, Ohio EPA developed a construction contract proposal for managing routine repairs and/or scheduled replacement of equipment. This has improved Ohio EPA's ability to adequately and promptly address system malfunctions, in addition to routine maintenance.

Southwest District

Staff in the solid waste and drinking water programs were lead participants in an eight-county pandemic flu exercise. The purpose was to test Ohio EPA's regulatory authority, outreach and assistance and administration in the event of a major incident. The district followed up with additional initiatives such as assuring that key staff in each program in the district are trained and certified in the Incident Command System.

In January 2007, the surface cleanup of the DOE Fernald site was completed. The 20-year, \$4 billion cleanup is one of the most comprehensive cleanups in the country and was brought about by an Ohio EPA enforcement action and resulting legal agreement. Ohio EPA was actively involved in overseeing all aspects of the cleanup and assuring that decisions were protective of the health and welfare of the community. Fernald will be an oasis of green space in a rapidly developing area.

Staff in the Emergency and Remedial Response unit aggressively investigated occurrences of vapor intrusion, a growing problem where off-site ground water contamination can cause indoor air quality problems. At sites in Troy and Dayton, staff identified sources of the contamination and sought U.S. EPA assistance to conduct removal actions that address indoor air contaminants and plan longer-term actions to address potential threats to well fields.

Staff in the Hazardous Waste Unit worked with Cincinnati officials to address contamination at the Queen City Barrel site in Cincinnati. The former drum reclaiming operation had a major fire in 2004 leaving a blighted and contaminated property in the Queensgate neighborhood. With cooperation from all levels of government, redevelopment plans for MetroWest were crafted and with assistance from the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, funds from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund were obtained.

Southeast District

Biological sampling in the Muskingum River in 2006 demonstrated that the entire length of river is fully attaining the Warm Water Habitat aquatic life use designation. This achievement reflects a high level of biological integrity and meets the biological goals of the Clean Water Act. The last major study of the entire Muskingum River occurred in 1988. The 2006 study documented that substantial improvement in biological conditions has occurred.



Muskingum River

District staff hold key roles in activities related to C-8 contamination from DuPont operations in West Virginia. Planning took place on the Phase II survey and sampling of private and public water systems in northern portions of Barlow and Warren Townships. Detailed plans for the activated carbon treatment system to serve the Little Hocking Water Association were approved in late 2006 and construction of this system began. Construction is now complete and awaiting operation.

The district worked on six permits for new flue gas desulfurization landfills needed by power plants. These will support either new utility plant operations or current plants that are removing sulfur dioxide from emissions to improve air quality.

Staff were involved in numerous site cleanups. They coordinated with U.S. EPA on the emergency removal of hazardous waste from Frick Gallagher in Wellston after the company closed due to bankruptcy. An Ohio EPA contractor removed asbestos-containing material under Agency supervision from the former New Boston Coke site; staff also provided oversight of the extensive demolition activities. State and federal EPA staff addressed the immediate threat from toxic leachate at the Miller Lumber wood waste site. More than eight million gallons of leachate were voluntarily removed under combined oversight and waste removal is underway.

Central District

District and central office staff worked closely together to issue a Darby watershed-specific permit for storm water related to construction activity. This permit was the first of its kind in Ohio. Due to the outreach work that was done prior to permit issuance and the high level of technical justification backing the permit, this permit was not appealed. The permit will protect stream quality as development pressures to continue to increase in this area.

There were 11 schools in the district's jurisdiction that had arsenic above the permissible drinking water limits. The arsenic was naturally occurring. Staff helped all 11 schools either find alternative sources of drinking water or install treatment systems to remove arsenic.

A covenant not to sue was issued for the former A.C. Humko industrial site in Columbus. This was the district's first Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund property to receive a covenant under the state's Voluntary Action Program. In 2003, the City of Columbus received \$3 million in Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant money to clean up the property. The property will house Harrison Park, a residential condominium development.

The district worked closely with multiple parties to move forward closure and redevelopment of the Bedford I Landfill property in Gahanna. A golf course training facility and driving range are planned for the property.

Northeast District

The Rack 40 Project, the largest sewer improvement project planned by the City of Akron to eliminate combined sewer overflows, was completed.

Staff documented full biological attainment in the Middle Cuyahoga River in the Kent area following completion of a dam removal project. Ohio EPA hopes to document similar stream improvements in this section of the Cuyahoga River over the next two years following completion of a second dam removal in Munroe Falls.

The district oversaw the cleanup of a house in East Liverpool that was severely contaminated with asbestos when two people illegally removed asbestos wrap from metal piping. It quickly spread throughout the remainder of the house through the central heating system. The culprits did not have the means to fund the appropriate cleanup, posing a risk to neighbors if any asbestos escaped. Through the district's efforts, the landfill hired an asbestos cleanup contractor to perform the needed remediation.

As a result of the Agency's technical assistance and enforcement efforts, several public water systems improved compliance with surface water treatment requirements. The Village of Salineville (Columbiana County), Village of Rock Creek (Ashtabula County) and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's plants that serve the Atwood Lake Lodge and Campground (Carroll County) have returned to compliance.



This 2005 photo shows conditions at the Munroe Falls dam prior to removal. Note the large dam pool created by the dam. Low flow periods caused serious dissolved oxygen shortages behind the dam extending for nearly three miles.

This 2006 photo shows how free-flowing conditions have been restored and exposed riverbanks exhibiting vigorous plant growth.



District Activities — State Fiscal Year 2007

Permitting

Operating

Major air sources (draft Title V)	43
Wastewater discharge	834

Installation and Plan Approvals

Air PTIs	751
Wastewater PTIs	1969
Drinking water plan reviews	1361
Ground water reviews	3147
Solid waste PTIs, certifications, closure plans	304
Hazardous waste permit modifications, certifications, closure plans	142

Inspections

Air	753
Wastewater and storm water	4622
Drinking water	2191
Solid waste	1148
Hazardous waste	1185
Spill prevention and control	68

Monitoring

Air monitors checked monthly	84
Surface water ambient sites checked monthly	55
Surface water survey samples collected	3407
Ground water ambient wells sampled	264

Cleanups

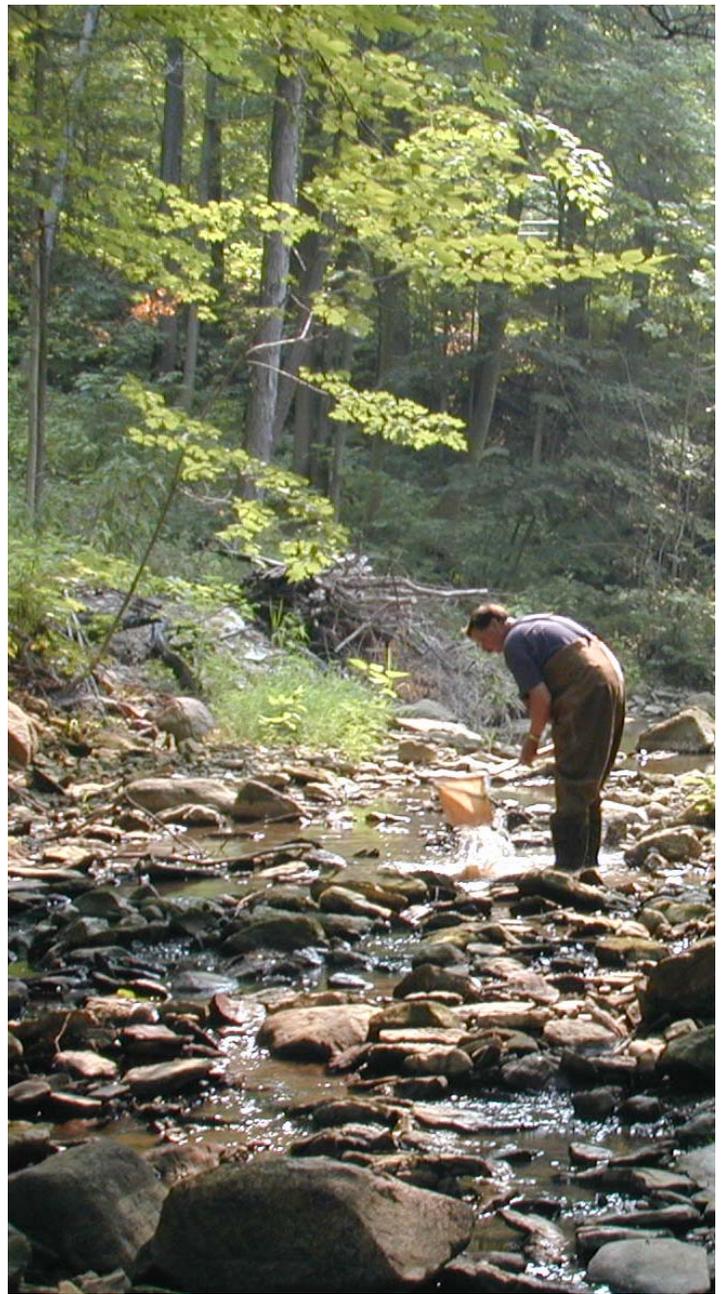
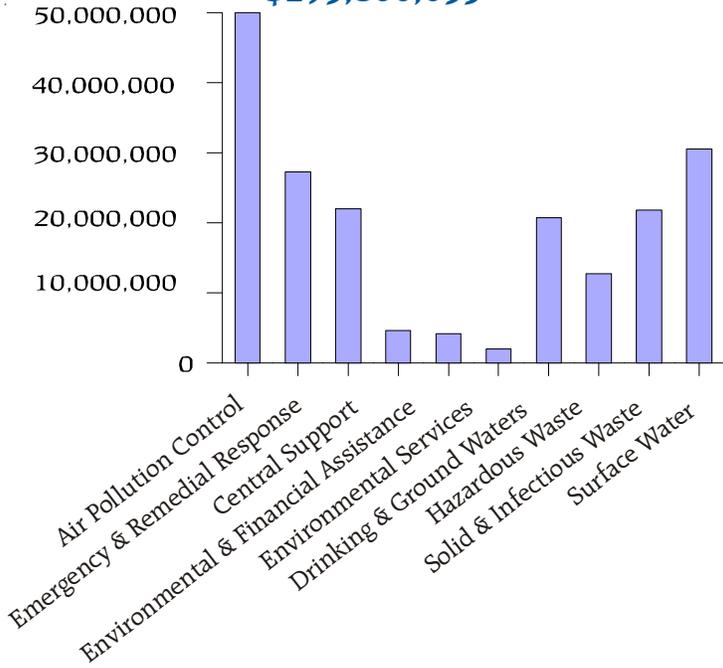
Active sites	721
Spill responses	1721

SFY'07 Budget Information

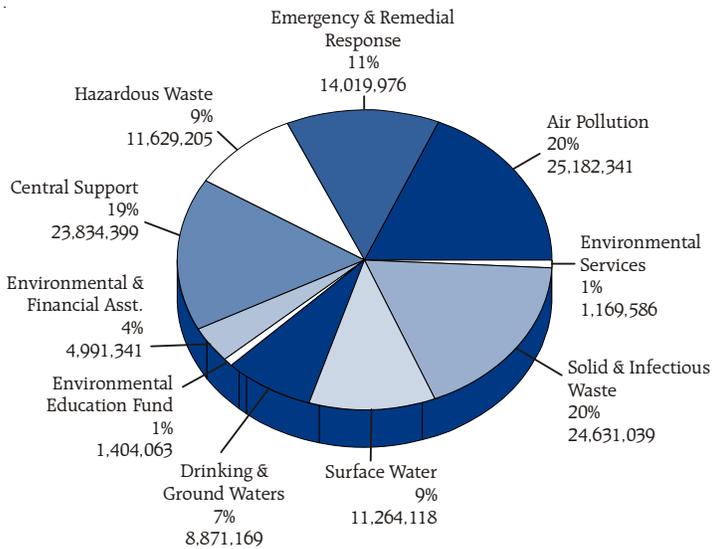
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Ohio EPA Total Expenditures

\$193,806,635



Revenue



A Publication of Ohio EPA
Public Interest Center

Governor: Ted Strickland
Ohio EPA Director: Chris Korleski

Editor: Carol Hester
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