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Put-in-Bay Agrees to Complete Water System Projects

In an [agreement with Ohio EPA](#), the village of Put-in-Bay will complete three projects associated with the village's drinking water system. Two of the projects were first ordered by Ohio EPA in 2004 to protect the public water supply following a gastrointestinal illness outbreak in the outlying township.

Ohio EPA looked at the village's water system while investigating the illnesses and potential risks were identified. The village was ordered to institute a backflow prevention program to prevent untreated water from auxiliary wells at homes and businesses from flowing into the village's system. To date, 21 service connections still need to install backflow prevention devices. Annual inspections are required for all backflow prevention devices.

The village must ensure auxiliary wells are either on closed systems that are disconnected from the public water supply and only used for irrigation and geothermal purposes, or that consumers with auxiliary wells sign an agreement to have the system inspected twice a year by a licensed plumber, including tests of backflow prevention devices.

Put-in-Bay also must continue a water treatment plant expansion project. The expansion will be done in two phases. First, the village will add a temporary treatment system on a concrete pad outside the plant to meet summer 2011 needs.

During the second phase, the village will move the temporary treatment units inside the plant building and add a second set of filters and carbon treatment units. A new Lake Erie intake and other improvements will further increase plant capacity.

The settlement requires the village to correct violations with monitoring, record keeping and reporting and laboratory protocols. It also includes an \$18,600 civil penalty. However, instead of paying \$14,880 of the penalty, Put-in-Bay agreed to hire one or two additional part-time certified operators to work at least 40 hours per week during the peak water usage months of May through September and at least 16 hours per month from October through April. The remaining \$3,720 penalty is to be paid to Ohio EPA's [Clean Diesel School Bus Fund](#).

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