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Ohio EPA Schedules Meeting to Discuss Permit Modification for Avon Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant

A request to modify Avon Lake's wastewater treatment plant discharge permit will be the focus of a September 1, 2011, Ohio EPA public meeting. The information session and public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Avon Lake Municipal Utilities building (board conference room), 201 Miller Road.

Ohio EPA is reviewing an application from the city of Avon Lake to have its permit modified for the discharge of mercury from the city's wastewater treatment plant located at 33370 Lake Road. If approved, the modification would allow the city to continue discharging mercury to Lake Erie at levels that exceed the 1.3 parts per trillion (ppt) limit required in its existing permit.

To achieve the 1.3 ppt discharge limit, the city would have to install extremely costly technology that would result in substantial economic impacts. Ohio EPA has evaluated the cost and feasibility of this approach and determined that a more effective way to lower the mercury impact is to reduce the amount of mercury being put into the wastewater system. Therefore, in order to receive a variance from the mercury limit, the city would be required to identify the sources of mercury that go to the treatment plant and take steps to minimize the mercury releases from those sources.

Comments on the requested modification may be presented at the September 1 hearing or submitted in writing to: Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. The public comment period ends September 8, 2011. Following consideration of public comments, Ohio EPA will make a decision on the application.

The proposed discharge permit and related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office in Twinsburg by first calling (330) 963-1200.

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