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Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

**FOR RELEASE:** December 23, 2011  
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## **Ohio EPA Requests Comments on Household Sewage Treatment System General Permit Renewal**

Ohio EPA is taking comments on a draft general permit renewal that authorizes local health departments to act as the permitting authority when a homeowner seeks to obtain general permit coverage for select household sewage treatment systems (HSTS).

Currently, there are estimated to be more than 300,000 discharging systems in Ohio with several thousand new or replacement household sewage treatment systems being installed each year. One of the goals of this permit and future Ohio Department of Health rules is to minimize discharging systems when possible.

The general permit renewal would cover three types of discharges including:

1. New discharges applying to new construction on existing lots where on-lot disposal or public sewers are not feasible and an adequate receiving environment is not available;
2. The replacement of failed on-lot or off-lot systems for existing homes when on-lot systems or public sewers are not feasible; and
3. The update of currently discharging systems that are causing a public health nuisance and must be modified to meet current design standards.

The draft general permit details what qualifies as an adequate receiving stream. New discharges are not permitted to discharge in exceptional quality waters, non-perennial streams (less than five miles of watershed drainage area), storm sewers, roadside ditches, agricultural ditches or any other manmade drainage course. It also specifies stringent effluent limits for some common pollutants including total suspended solids, residual chlorine, E. coli, ammonia and dissolved oxygen.

Statewide general permits have a five-year duration and are reviewed and revised as needed at renewal. The original household sewage treatment system general permit will expire on Dec. 31, 2011, and the action to revise it would replace that permit.

Written comments may be mailed or emailed to [Mark Stump](#), Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. All comments received by the close of business on January 2, 2012, will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this draft permit proposal. [Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet and memorandum of understanding](#) are available online, or by calling (614) 644-2028.

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