



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

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Ohio EPA Accepts Public Comments About Proposed Mining Project in Muskingum and Guernsey Counties

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, 2012, regarding the water quality impacts of Oxford Mining Company LLC's proposed project to recover the #6 coal seam in Monroe and Knox Townships. The meeting will be held at the Adamsville Community Building, located at 8000 Madison Street, Adamsville.

Oxford's preferred alternative, if approved, would impact approximately 23,577 feet of unnamed tributaries to the Muskingum River and 5.8 acres of wetlands. Oxford would be required to offset any impacts resulting from the project. Ohio EPA also will consider other alternatives that result in lesser or no impacts to water quality.

The federal Clean Water Act requires anyone discharging dredged or fill material into Ohio waters to obtain a Section 401 water quality certification from Ohio EPA and Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA received a Section 401 certification application for this project. The Agency's review is to ensure the project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

The project may result in a change from current water quality conditions but cannot violate standards that protect human health and the environment. Ohio EPA will review the application and the technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the project before making a decision.

Ohio EPA places a high priority on public involvement and encourages citizens to become involved in the decision-making process. During the Jan. 6 information session, representatives from Ohio EPA will explain the proposed project and answer questions. During the hearing, which immediately follows the information session, the public can submit comments for the record regarding the application. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain additional information that will be considered before Ohio EPA issues or denies the certification.

In addition to oral comments provided at the public meeting, Ohio EPA will accept and equally consider written comments received through Jan. 13, 2012. Written comments can be mailed to Ohio EPA-Division of Surface Water, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Interested parties also may request to be placed on a mailing list for information by writing to the same address.

The application and other related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Lazarus Government Center, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700, Columbus or the Southeast District Office, 2195 Front St., Logan, by first calling (614) 644-2001.

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