



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

FOR RELEASE: February 10, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Dina Pierce, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Hosting Public Meeting about Sandusky Bay Dredging

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2011, to accept comments on water quality impacts associated with a proposal to dispose of sediment dredged from Sandusky Harbor in Lake Erie. The meeting will be held at Sandusky City Council Chambers, 222 Meigs St., Sandusky.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to dredge the federal navigation channels and dispose of the dredged material into designated open lake areas in Lake Erie in the vicinity of Sandusky Bay. If approved, work would occur between July 1, 2011, and April 15, 2012, to minimize impacts to fish and aquatic species and their habitats.

The Corps of Engineers submitted three alternatives with varying impacts to the lake. Its preferred alternative would dredge an estimated 500,000 cubic yards of material from an estimated 15,000 linear feet of channel and dispose of it at an existing open lake area. A proposal with less impact on lake water quality would dredge 300,000 cubic yards of material from 9,000 feet of channel.

During the information session, Ohio EPA representatives will answer questions about the proposed project. During the hearing, which follows the information session, the public can submit comments regarding the application.

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. Ohio EPA's review is to ensure the project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards. Ohio EPA will consider any comments received before making a decision on the application.

The discharge would result in a change from the current water quality conditions of Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay. Therefore, Ohio EPA is required to consider technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the proposed project.

Ohio EPA will accept written comments on the application through March 3, 2011. To submit written comments or request to be placed on a mailing list for information, write to: Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.