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## **Ohio EPA Issues Final Water Certification for Marietta Boat Dock Project**

Ohio EPA has issued a final water quality certification for a proposed development project known as Harmar Boaters' Access in Marietta (Washington County).

The project, as proposed by the city of Marietta, involves constructing a recreational boat dock on the right descending bank of the Muskingum River approximately 1,000 feet upstream from the confluence of the Ohio River. Discharges from the construction and development activities would result in lowering of the water quality of the Muskingum River. The proposed project may result in a change from current water quality conditions, but it cannot violate standards that protect human health and the environment. The applicant's preferred alternative includes the placement of 35 feet of rock rip rap. The applicant is required to offset any impacts resulting from the project.

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 a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA reviewed the city's 401 application and considered the technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the project before making a decision. The Agency's review ensures the project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

Ohio EPA held a public information session and hearing on November 22, 2010, regarding the water quality impacts of the project. Written comments were received through November 29, 2010. The purpose of the hearing and public comment period was to obtain additional information that was considered before Ohio EPA issued the final certification.

Issuance of the final water quality certification can be appealed to the Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). Appeals often must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact [ERAC online](#) or at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

The certification, 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 by first calling (614) 644-2001.

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