



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

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MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Issues Approval for Lorain County Construction Project

Ohio EPA has issued a water quality certification to the Ontario Land Company to construct the remainder of the Windsor Point subdivision, located west of Stoney Ridge Road in North Ridgeville.

The certification allows Ontario Land Company to impact a total of 0.93 acre of wetlands (0.31 acre previous impacts, 0.62 acre future impacts) to construct 227 homes. The approved impacts are significantly less than the developer's initial request to fill more than five acres of wetlands and all streams on the property.

To compensate for the loss of the wetlands, Ontario Land Company will pay for 2.2 acres of wetlands restoration at the Charlemont Reservation mitigation site south of Wellington. More significantly for North Ridgeville, the developer also will place a conservation easement on Windsor Point's remaining streams and 11.93 acres of wetlands, as well as 28.73 acres of associated upland buffer. Therefore, the current flood control functions of these areas will be permanently protected.

Ohio EPA approved the reduced impacts after reviewing the technical and environmental aspects of the project and considering comments from the community. On March 9, 2010, Ohio EPA held a public hearing in North Ridgeville where dozens of citizens asked questions and submitted comments about the application. Ohio EPA's written response to public comments and a copy of the certification are available [online](#).

As approved, the project may change the current water quality conditions in the French Creek and Black River watersheds, but cannot violate Ohio's water quality standards that protect human health and the environment.

Anyone wanting to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the State must first obtain a water quality certification from Ohio EPA and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Applicants are required to preserve, restore or replace wetlands and streams nearby to mitigate any approved impacts. Ohio EPA's review is to ensure proposed projects will comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

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