



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

**FOR RELEASE:** March 2, 2011  
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## **Ohio EPA to Hold Meeting About Coal Company's Meigs County Wastewater Discharge Permit Requests**

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing on March 16, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss permit applications submitted by Gatling Ohio LLC of New Haven, WV, for three proposed coal mining projects and water quality impacts to several state waterways. Ohio EPA is reviewing applications for permits to construct treatment and disposal systems and for wastewater discharge permits for Yellowbush Mine operations off State Route 124 and CR 29 in Sutton Township near Racine (Meigs County). The meeting is at Southern Elementary School (920 Elm St., Racine).

The Agency's review of the applications is to ensure that discharges from the projects would comply with Ohio's water quality standards that protect aquatic life and human health. If Ohio EPA issues the permits, the company could discharge treated wastewater into tributaries to Bowman and Wolf Runs, Yellowbush Creek and subsequently the Ohio River; this may result in a change from current water quality conditions.

For the first proposal (the Bowman Portal site, on CR 29, discharging to an unnamed tributary to Bowman Run) and the second proposal (the Wolf Run site, off SR 124, discharging to an unnamed tributary to Wolfe Run), Gatling wants to build ponds to treat and discharge water pumped from the mine as well as storm water from soil and spoil storage areas at two new mine slope entry point areas.

For the third proposed project (the Yellowbush Mine site, off SR 124), Gatling wants to change existing treatment ponds currently discharging to Yellowbush Creek. A new permit would add discharge from an existing treatment pond for the river dock operation.

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

In addition to oral comments provided at the public meeting, Ohio EPA will equally consider written comments received through March 23, 2011, at Ohio EPA-Division of Surface Water, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Interested parties may request to be placed on a mailing list for information by writing to the same address. The permit applications and related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office at 2195 Front St. in Logan by first calling (740) 385-8501.

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