



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

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Heather Lauer, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Erika Wiggins, (614) 644-2160

**Study to Assess Upper Little Miami River's Quality**  
*Ohio EPA to Sample Stream Water Quality This Summer*

A new study will give Ohio EPA further insight into the health of the upper Little Miami River's watershed, located in Clark, Greene, Montgomery, Warren and Madison counties in south central and southwestern Ohio. The Agency is repeating and expanding previous efforts to gather information that will be used to determine the quality of the river and its tributaries. This information will reveal if the water quality has been maintained since an earlier study or if restoration is needed.

Results from the study conducted in 1998 showed that the quality of the streams was generally good. To conduct such studies, the Agency collects water, fish, aquatic insects and sediment from the Little Miami River and the streams that feed it.

Sampling locations will be chosen upstream and downstream from sewage treatment plants, industrial discharges, tributaries, dams and at locations where there have been significant changes in land use practices since the last study. Samples are collected from the same sites a number of times during the season. Most of the sampling is conducted from June through October 2011. Ohio EPA employees all carry photo identification and request permission from private landowners if access to their property is needed.

While Ohio EPA has extensive information on permitted discharges, local residents may be aware of other locations or situations that could be adversely affecting the stream. To notify Ohio EPA of potential areas to be considered as the study plan is drafted, contact Erika Wiggins in the Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160.

The data collected will give Ohio EPA a picture of where the water is healthy and where to focus work with local governments and landowners to find ways to manage impacts to water resources to ensure good water quality. Ohio EPA is especially seeking local involvement with the soil and water conservation districts in this rural watershed.

As part of the study, Ohio EPA will compile the sampling results and conclusions about the meaning of the data in a biological and water quality report called a Technical Support Document (TSD). This report generally is completed two years after the samples are collected.

Water quality issues identified in the TSD will guide a further watershed study aimed at directing effective water quality management. This study is referred to as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and a final report typically is provided to the public three years following the initial water quality study.

