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Ohio EPA Issues Approval for Summit County Construction Project

Ohio EPA has issued a water quality certification to LRC Copley Investors LLC for a proposed retail development project to be located on approximately 40 acres of land located along Rothrock Road, east of I-77 and south of S.R. 18 in Copley Township.

The certification allows the developer to impact 1.59 acres of wetlands and 1,498 feet of stream on the property. Ohio EPA determined the combination of an on-site storm water management system and off-site mitigation will compensate for the lost functions of the site's aquatic resources.

The certification requires the developer to create 2.6 acres of wetlands and restore or enhance 1,928 feet of stream channels. All of the wetlands and most of the stream mitigation will take place at the Wilderness Center's Fox Creek-Miller Tract located just north of Wilmot in southwestern Stark County. The remainder of the stream mitigation will take place in the city of Norton along Wolf Creek. The Rothrock Road development site and both mitigation sites are located within the Tuscarawas River watershed.

Ohio EPA approved the impacts after reviewing the technical and environmental aspects of the project and considering comments from the community. On December 2, 2010, Ohio EPA held a public hearing in Copley where 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 Schocalog Run and Tuscarawas River watershed, 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 Section 404 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.