

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

FOR RELEASE: November 9, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

**Ohio EPA to Hold Public Hearing on
Draft General Permit for Temporary Wastewater Discharges**

Ohio EPA has drafted a general permit to regulate temporary wastewater discharges and is accepting public comments through November 28, 2011.

Ohio EPA will hold a public meeting to take comments relating to issues of water quality at 3 p.m. Nov. 21, at Ohio EPA Central Office, Conference Room A, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus. The purpose of the public meeting is to obtain additional information that will be considered by the Director of Ohio EPA prior to any further action on the draft permit. Visitors should bring a photo ID.

Temporary discharges are usually those associated with a facility or site cleanup; a one-time emergency discharge related to an environmental cleanup activity; discharges required for restoring conditions affecting aquatic life or to protect human health and safety; and discharges resulting from testing pilot projects.

The general permit would not cover discharges to high quality receiving waters within two stream miles of the discharge point, including specific classifications:

- outstanding national resource water;
- outstanding state waters; and
- superior high quality water other than Lake Erie or Category 3 wetland.

A discharger may not use this general permit to cover discharges that increase the regulated pollutants due to facility modifications, bypass or upset a treatment works or collection system, or already permitted wastewater discharges. In addition, the Ohio EPA Director may request an individual permit application. The permit also would not cover discharges that:

- continue beyond 60 days;
- are associated with storm water;
- contribute to a violation of Ohio's water quality standards as determined by the director;
- discharge to combined or sanitary sewers;
- discharge within 500 yards upstream of a public water supply intake or discharge to the Ohio River and cannot meet public water supply standards;
- are comingled with hazardous wastes or substances;
- contain pollutants classified as bioaccumulative chemicals of concern;
- are associated with petroleum corrective actions; and
- include hydrostatic testing wastewater.

Statewide general permits have a five-year duration and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that period. A general permit is one permit covering many locations that have similar discharges. General permits are used to allow discharges that will have a minimal impact on the environment. An individual could request coverage under the draft general permit by submitting an application, notice of intent and paying applicable fees.

Copies of the [draft permit, and additional information](#) are available for review online.

Those wishing to submit written comments or be on Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list for this general permit should write to Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Permits and Compliance Section, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 or email patti.smith@epa.ohio.gov. Comments received after Nov. 28, 2011 may not be considered as part of the official record for this permit.