



**FOR RELEASE:** January 12, 2012  
**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

### **Ohio EPA Schedules Meeting to Discuss Permit Modification for Wastewater Treatment Plant in Ashtabula County**

A request to modify Geneva-on-the-Lake's wastewater treatment plant discharge permit will be the focus of a Jan. 26, 2012, Ohio EPA public meeting. The information session and public hearing will begin at 6 p.m. at the Geneva-on-the-Lake Village Hall, 4929 South Warner Drive.

Ohio EPA is reviewing an application from the village to modify conditions related to the discharge of mercury from the village's wastewater treatment plant located at 4843 North Broadway. If approved, the modification would allow the village to continue discharging mercury to Lake Erie at levels that exceed the 1.3 parts per trillion (ppt) limit required in its existing permit.

To achieve the 1.3 ppt discharge limit, the village would have to install extremely costly technology that would result in substantial economic impacts. Ohio EPA has evaluated the cost and feasibility of this approach and determined that a more effective way to lower the mercury impact is to reduce the amount of mercury being put into the wastewater system. Therefore, in order to receive a variance from the mercury limit, the village would be required to identify the sources of mercury that go to the treatment plant and take steps to minimize the mercury releases from those sources.

Comments on the requested modification may be presented at the Jan. 26 hearing or submitted in writing to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 or emailed to [ed.swindall@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:ed.swindall@epa.ohio.gov) and [chris.bowman@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:chris.bowman@epa.ohio.gov). The public comment period ends Feb. 2, 2012. Following consideration of public comments, Ohio EPA will make a decision on the application.

The application and related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office in Twinsburg by first calling (330) 963-1200.

-30-

[www.epa.ohio.gov](http://www.epa.ohio.gov)