

Statewide

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF DRAFT GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Public Notice No: 21-09-008
Public Notice Date: September 17, 2021

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)–Division of Surface Water (DSW) has issued a draft general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. OHK000004 that may provide coverage to discharges from select household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) serving one, two or three family dwellings or other residential dwellings as defined by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29 in the state of Ohio. The draft general NPDES permit was issued on *September 2, 2021*. The Ohio EPA-DSW has developed this draft general NPDES permit through consultation with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and a workgroup consisting of local health districts.

This draft general NPDES permit updates and is a renewal of the existing NPDES Permit OHK000003 which expires on December 31, 2021. The draft NPDES Permit OHK000004 includes replacement systems on lots created after 2007 in certain circumstances that were previously excluded from coverage. It does not increase permit limitation or change other permit requirements and prohibitions. In accordance with the antidegradation rule, OAC 3745-1-05, I have determined that a lowering of water quality is necessary. Provision D(1)(j) was applied to this general permit renewal. This provision excludes the need for the submittal and subsequent review of technical alternatives and social and economic issues related to the degradation. Other rule provisions, however, including public participation and appropriate intergovernmental coordination were required prior to reaching this decision.

Renewal coverage under general NPDES permit OHK000004 will not require a notice of intent based on the provisions in OAC 3745-38-02(F). There are currently approximately 20,000 household sewage treatment systems covered under the existing general permit. These facilities are all similar in nature and discharge treated sewage from domestic sources at quantities less than 1000 gallons per day. Ohio EPA shares the authority to manage discharging household sewage treatment systems with the Ohio Department of Health and local health districts. The treatment systems are approved by the Ohio Department of Health to meet the conditions of this permit. A notice of intent will not be required for renewal coverage due to the high number of systems that would need renewed coverage, the large resource expenditure processing and tracking the renewal NOIs would represent to the State, and the small volume of flow each system discharges. In addition, no fee will be associated with renewed coverage. In lieu of a notice of intent, the existing permitted systems will be renewed upon permit issuance, and the homeowners will be notified of the renewal. Information will be included in the notification to instruct homeowners how to update any inaccurate information associated with the permit via a transfer form.

Ohio EPA will be holding an in-person and virtual public hearing on the draft general permit November 1, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The in-person hearing will be at the same time and date and will be located at Ohio EPA, Suite 700, Conference Room Autumn (A), 50 W. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. During the hearing, the public may submit written comments on the record about the proposed rules if participating virtually and verbally if participating in person. To facilitate the scheduling of in-person oral testimony, persons intending to give testimony in-person at the hearing should notify the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center, mary.mccarron@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2160.

Citizens who want to participate virtually must register in advance for the meeting at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4517430801572146190>.

Copies of the draft general NPDES permit, its associated fact sheet and further documentation can be obtained on the Ohio EPA-DSW web page at <http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/gpfact.aspx> or by contacting Ohio EPA-DSW Central Office at 614-644-2001.

Persons wishing to be on the Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list for this project or wishing to submit comments for Ohio EPA's consideration may do so in writing to Ohio EPA's Division of SurfaceWater, Attention: Tony Nosko, Permitting Section, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216 or by email to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov. Comments regarding this permit should be submitted no later than close of business (5 PM) on November 8, 2021.