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Ohio EPA Issues New Draft Framework for Nutrient Reduction

Ohio EPA has submitted a draft “Nutrient Reduction Strategy” to U.S.EPA, seeking approval for the framework that will be used to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels in waters of the state.

The strategy is part of a multi-faceted, multi-agency effort to solicit input from stakeholder groups, in an effort to reduce nutrient impacts in Ohio’s waters. The framework will help with developing a plan that protects drinking water, recreational water and aquatic life while considering costs and the current economic climate.

U.S. EPA asked states to take the lead in solving the nutrient problem by developing statewide nutrient reduction plans.

Ohio EPA has drafted a conceptual framework that identifies actions to accelerate nutrient reduction from nonpoint sources as well as renewed emphasis on point source pollution. The new framework is necessary because approximately 48 percent of Ohio’s watersheds are degraded by nutrient enrichment issues.

Ohio plans to approach the problem from five directions:

1. improve storm water management practices;
2. enhance regulatory practices;
3. expand public outreach and education efforts;
4. improve land use practices; and
5. improve stream habitat management.

The draft framework provided to U.S. EPA is intended to be the start of a multi-year effort that will involve input from several ongoing workgroups, including the Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force (Phase Two); the Directors’ Agricultural Nutrients and Water Quality Working Group put together by the directors of Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and the Point Source Urban Work Group, which is now being formed.

Ohio EPA will consider recommendations from all of the workgroups for inclusion in the draft framework.

For more information about Ohio’s [draft strategy for nutrient reduction](#), please visit Ohio EPA’s website.

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