



---

## Getting Involved in the Solid Waste Permitting Process

*Ohio EPA encourages citizens to get involved. In many instances, citizens provide valuable information used in the decision-making process.*

### Why should I get involved?

Public participation is a high priority at Ohio EPA and many efforts are made to involve citizens in the decision-making process. These efforts give interested people the opportunity to learn about Ohio EPA's permitting process, to gain an understanding of the permit application and the technical requirements that must be met, and to voice their concerns.

Ohio EPA encourages citizens, whether supporting or opposing the proposal, to get involved. Not only do individuals benefit by becoming involved, but so does Ohio EPA. In many instances, citizens have played a very important role by providing valuable information used in the decision-making process.

### When should I get involved?

Ohio EPA encourages public involvement throughout the permitting process. Ohio EPA holds information sessions to present pertinent information about the permit application and answer questions from the audience.

The presentations include an explanation of the permitting process, the design and siting criteria and an overview of the permit application. Information sessions are an effective method to prepare attendees to comment on relevant issues at the public hearing.

A public hearing is the public's opportunity to comment for the administrative record. This record is included in the information the Ohio EPA director considers when deciding to issue or deny a permit. A court reporter will be present to record the proceedings. Individuals who choose not to offer oral testimony are encouraged to submit their comments in writing.

All relevant oral and written comments will be addressed in a response to comments summary prepared by the division. The director of Ohio EPA will review the response to comments summary before deciding to issue or deny a permit. The response to comments, along with the director's decision, is made available to the public online or in hard copy.

### How can I educate myself?

The Agency realizes most citizens are not engineers or scientists. Ohio EPA will provide information about the permit review process and the technical criteria used in making a decision. Staff members from Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management and the Public Interest Center are available to assist you. Please call throughout the review process if you have questions or would like additional information.

### Will my comments matter?

Yes. If your comments are relevant to Ohio EPA's technical review of the permit application, then your comments can make a difference. Therefore, it is important for you to learn about the technical criteria on which Ohio EPA bases its final decision. Ohio EPA actions are dictated by the laws of the state. Your participation in the decision-making process will be most effective if you know what the Agency can and cannot consider.

### Does Ohio EPA select proposed facility locations?

Ohio EPA does not have the authority to dictate the location of a solid waste facility. The choice and purchase of a solid waste facility site is a private property transaction. Ohio EPA's role is to review the proposed site to determine if it meets the technical requirements for siting and design, and to determine whether a solid waste facility can be safely constructed and operated on the site chosen by the developer.

# Getting Involved in the Solid Waste Permitting Process

## What can Ohio EPA consider or require?

The Agency reviews each solid waste permit-to-install (PTI) application based on its technical merit, according to Agency rules and state law. The Agency's concerns in reviewing a PTI are to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

Current requirements establish standards for siting, design, construction, operations, closure and post-closure care, financial assurance and monitoring.

For all new solid waste facilities, the Ohio Attorney General's Office conducts a background check to verify the permit applicant's reliability, expertise and competence to operate the solid waste facility. It also prohibits individuals convicted of certain crimes from being involved with solid waste facilities.

## What can Ohio EPA not consider?

Ohio EPA's regulatory authority is limited to the specific pollution control laws and regulations administered by the Agency. Under current state law, Ohio EPA does not have the authority to consider:

- zoning issues;
- potential increase in road usage;
- possible effects on property value;
- how popular or unpopular the facility may be; and
- if the waste comes from within or outside Ohio.

## How can I stay informed?

The Agency will do its best to keep you and your local media updated throughout the permitting process. Ohio EPA publishes a legal notice to inform the public that a PTI application has been received. The notice appears online in Ohio EPA's *Weekly Review* at [epa.ohio.gov/actions.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/actions.aspx) and in the local newspapers of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located or proposed to be located.

For public meetings, a public notice will be published in newspapers of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located or proposed to be located. Ohio EPA also updates interested citizens and citizens' groups. Please contact the Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160 if you would like to be included on a mailing list for a particular site.

## Contact

The Public Interest Center's objective is to provide information to citizens and the media. For a list of contacts in your area, go to the "Contacts" tab at [epa.ohio.gov/pic/](http://epa.ohio.gov/pic/). For more information about the solid waste program, go to [epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/](http://epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/). For district office contact information, go to [epa.ohio.gov/contact.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/contact.aspx), or call the appropriate number below.

Central District  
(614) 728-3778

Northwest District  
(419) 352-8461

Southwest District  
(937) 285-6357

Northeast District  
(330) 963-1200

Southeast District  
(740) 385-8501

Central Office  
(614) 644-2621

### Disclaimer

This document is intended for guidance purposes only. Completion of the activities and procedures outlined in this document shall not release an owner or operator from any requirement or obligation for complying with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 3734 or 3714 if appropriate, the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules adopted thereunder, or any authorizing documents or orders issued thereunder, nor shall it prevent Ohio EPA from pursuing enforcement actions to require compliance with ORC Chapter 3734 or 3714, the OAC rules or any authorizing documents or orders issued thereunder.