

Ohio EPA Policy	<b>Lime Sludge Disposal</b>	
DSW-0400.022  <b>Removed</b>	Statutory reference: Rule reference:	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Revision 0, July 1, 1991 Removed, April 30, 2003
<b>THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW</b> Pursuant to Section 3745.30 of the Revised Code, this policy was reviewed and removed.		

This policy does not meet the definition of policy contained in Section 3745.30 of the Ohio Revised Code. Ohio EPA is removing this document from the Division of Surface Water Policy Manual and is considering addressing this topic in a future rulemaking.

**For more information contact:**

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## Lime Sludge Disposal

**PURPOSE:** To define requirements for the disposal of lime sludge generated during the process of producing potable water supplies.

**BACKGROUND:** Lime sludge generated during the process of producing potable water supplies is a product that has beneficial reuses. These reuses must be considered and demonstrated to be economically impractical before other options will be considered. For the purposes of this policy, the term disposal means the removal of lime sludge from the process of producing potable water supplies. Disposal practices approved by Ohio EPA prior to the effective date of this policy are not subject to the requirements contained herein; however, a sludge management plan is required for existing land application operations.

**POLICY:** The preferred method of lime sludge is beneficial reuse via agricultural land application, recalcination for reuse in the water treatment process, mixing with compost, or other application. If it is demonstrated that these reuses are economically impractical, other methods of lime sludge disposal that may be considered include placement in lagoons, quarries, or landfills.

### Requirements

- 1) Sludge Management Plan. A sludge management plan must be submitted to and approved by Ohio EPA prior to commencing operation.
- 2) Demonstration. In order for the director to approve any method of lime sludge disposal that does not employ beneficial reuse, a demonstration must be submitted showing that recalcination is not economically feasible at this time and that recalcination or agricultural application of lime sludge cannot meet the total disposal/reuse needs. The following method-specific requirements also apply.
- 3) Other Requirements.

#### a) Land Application.

The use of lime sludge for agricultural purposes requires a permit from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

#### b) Lagoon Storage.

Lagoons shall be designed in accordance with the Ten States Standards for Water Works. A permit-to-install is required for the construction of a lagoon. A linear will not be required except under unusual circumstances where specific problems have been documented. Lagoons exceeding certain height and storage criteria also require a permit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Chapter 1521 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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c) Mixing with compost

Where lime sludge is to be mixed as a component of compost, the requirements for the products shall comply with Division of Water Pollution Control policy 4.18.

d) Storage in Limestone Quarries

Environmental Assessment

In order for this option to be considered by the director, an ecological assessment of the site must be made prior to the initial disposal to determine if there are circumstances which would preclude the use of the quarry for this purpose. The assessment shall include physical, chemical, and biological surveys of the quarry lake to establish baseline water quality conditions, as well as determine the biological viability of the lake and detect rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species. Chemical analyses in the quarry lake shall include, but not be limited to, the following parameters: water column profiles of pH, conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen; surface and bottom samples shall be analyzed for suspended solids, alkalinity, hardness as CaCO<sub>3</sub>, total aluminum, total magnesium, and all priority pollutants. The number of lake sites to be sampled will be based on the size of the lake and subject to approval by the director. Biological analyses shall include, but not be limited to, the delineation of existing wetland habitat and an inventory of wetland plant species and an inventory and standing crop estimate of the existing fishery. A detailed plan for the ecological assessment shall be submitted to the director for review and approval.

Conditions for Approval

Use of quarries will not be approved if the Director determines:

- 1) The quarry provides habitat for threatened or endangered aquatic species (i.e., state resource waters), or
- 2) The placement of lime sludge would result in unacceptable adverse long-term impacts to water quality.

The quarry lake shall have restricted public access. The public notice regarding draft approval of disposal shall indicate the director has considered the requirements of the antidegradation policy (3745-1-05).