

Date of Notice: December 14, 2011

Statewide

PUBLIC NOTICE
DRAFT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
GENERAL PERMIT FOR SHALE GAS WELLS AND ATTENDANT FEATURES

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water (DSW) has developed a draft general permit regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the State associated with oil and gas drilling activities.

Under the draft general permit, authorized impacts are limited to no more than a total cumulative 0.5 acres of low- to medium- quality (Category 1 and/or 2) wetlands and 300 feet of streams. Qualifying activities include the construction of drilling pads, reserve and mud pits, fresh water and flowback water storage ponds, transmission lines and access roads. Each drilling pad with attendant features is considered to be a single and complete project. Applicants will be required to mitigate any approved wetland and stream impacts by contributing to the preservation, restoration or enhancement of Ohio's water resources.

The discharges from the activities, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of surface waters of the State, including wetlands and streams. The draft general permit was prepared in accordance with Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-32 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). In accordance with OAC Rule 3745-1, an antidegradation review of the application has been conducted.

No exclusions or waivers apply or may be granted by the Director of Ohio EPA, as outlined by OAC Rule 3745-1-05(D) (effective on May 1, 1998).

Starting December 14, 2011, the draft general permit can be viewed at the agency's web page at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/shale.aspx>.

Persons wishing to 1) be on Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list for this project, 2) request a public hearing, or 3) submit written comments for Ohio EPA's consideration regarding the draft general permit should do so electronically, in person, or by mail no later than the close of business on January 13, 2012. The words "General Permit for Oil and Gas Wells" should appear on each page of any submitted comments. Ohio EPA will consider all comments received by the close of business on January 13, 2012. E-mail all comments to patti.smith@epa.ohio.gov or mail them to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Surface Water - Permit Processing Unit
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P.O. Box 1049
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Attn: General Permit for Oil and Gas Wells