

# OhioEPA

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Release:** November 1, 2005  
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### Ohio EPA Receives U.S. EPA Approval on Big Walnut Creek Watershed Report

Ohio EPA has received the necessary approval from U.S. EPA on Ohio EPA's water quality report regarding the Big Walnut Creek watershed, which was submitted to U.S. EPA in August 2005.

The sampling done for this report is part of a larger process for cleaning up water bodies in the state, called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL process will improve the quality of an impaired stream by taking a comprehensive look at all pollution sources.

Major streams included in the report are: Big Walnut Creek, Alum Creek, Blacklick Creek and Rocky Fork. The watershed is primarily in Delaware, Franklin and Morrow counties, with smaller areas in Knox, Licking and Fairfield counties. According to the report, impacts to streams in the Big Walnut watershed are primarily from pollution sources associated with sewage treatment plants, agricultural practices and inadequate home sewage treatment systems. Alum Creek Lake and Hoover reservoir were not included in the report.

Efforts to improve water quality in the Big Walnut watershed include reviewing existing, new and renewal permits for sources that discharge from a pipe to ensure compliance with discharge limits established in the TMDL; encouraging agricultural practices that reduce phosphorus and sediment runoff to streams in the watershed; and reducing pollution from home sewage systems.

Comments from interested parties were solicited by Ohio EPA when the report was in draft form.

To obtain a copy of the report and associated information or inspect Ohio EPA files pertaining to the report, write Mike Gallaway at Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 3232 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43207, or call him at (614) 728-3843, or e-mail him at: [mike.gallaway@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:mike.gallaway@epa.state.oh.us). The report can viewed on Ohio EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/BigWalnutCreekTMDL.html>.