



State Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

July 2014

Message from the Director

Having spent more than 20 years at Ohio EPA, it was an honor to be appointed by Ohio Governor John R. Kasich as director of the Agency earlier this year. I believe the work we do is as important as any in state government.

For the past three years as a senior policy advisor to the Governor, I gained a different perspective of state government and took a great deal of pride in developing energy and environmental policies that promote the critical balance of protecting the environment and encouraging business development and job creation. This is often a difficult balance, but one that is essential for our state to continue to grow and prosper environmentally and economically.



Some of our accomplishments in State Fiscal Year 2014 include:

- Developed a general air permit for oil and gas well site operations to allow issuance in about two weeks without sacrificing any environmental protections;
- Developed an effective process to efficiently facilitate increased requests for oil and gas well pad permits;
- Processed high-priority, complex permits for new facilities or major expansions to retain and support Ohio businesses;
- Awarded millions of dollars in low-interest or interest-free loans to assist drinking water and wastewater plant upgrades and implement water quality improvement projects;
- Partnered with other state agencies to develop solutions to reducing nutrients in our waterways and combat harmful algal blooms;
- Supported, with funding and technical assistance, the development of new recycling programs and recycling markets; and
- Expanded our compliance assistance efforts.

I am also proud of Ohio EPA's participation in numerous state and national efforts where our expertise is being sought and our voice is being heard. As environmental policy is developed, we are committed to be mindful of Ohio's stakeholders and make sure environmental regulations make sense.

This report highlights some of the efforts Ohio EPA staff is making to enhance and protect the environment and public health; ensure sound administration of Agency resources; and provide high-quality customer service. Although much of the Agency's day-to-day work is not covered in this report, it is important nonetheless. I am proud of Ohio EPA's employees and their commitment to improving our state.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig W. Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig W. Butler, Director

Division of Air Pollution Control

Attaining Air Quality Standards

Ohio EPA operates one of the country's most extensive air pollution monitoring networks, comprised of 264 ambient air monitors, including 48 ozone monitors. The entire state is currently attaining the standards for carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. The entire state had fully met the sulfur dioxide standard until U.S. EPA adopted a more stringent standard in 2010. Ohio EPA will develop plans to reduce emissions from sources in Jefferson, Lake, Morgan and Clermont counties to bring those areas into compliance.

Logan County and Cuyahoga County are now attaining the lead standard and Ohio EPA will request redesignation status for those counties, and potentially for Fulton County, by the end of 2014.

In July 2014, Ohio EPA will submit data to U.S. EPA demonstrating that 19 counties in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, Columbus and Cincinnati areas meet the federal ozone standard. The state is required to achieve the standard by 2015.

In December 2013, Ohio EPA submitted PM_{2.5} nonattainment area recommendations for five counties in the Canton-Massillon, Cincinnati and Cleveland areas. U.S. EPA will consider Ohio's recommendation and make a final determination of nonattainment counties by the end of 2014.

Air Pollution Permits

Ohio EPA requires permits for oil and gas well pads, natural gas gathering stations, compressor stations, gas processing facilities and natural gas liquids fractionation facilities in addition to other more traditional air pollution sources located at these facilities. From 2013 to 2014, the number of oil and gas well pad permits increased from 58 to 164; Ohio EPA created an effective process to efficiently facilitate the increased requests.

In addition, Ohio EPA revised the general permit for Oil and Gas Well Site Operations, which received a positive reaction from business and environmental interests alike. The modified standards will help identify leaks earlier so less product is lost—a benefit to industry and the environment.

The enhanced standards will also help address air emissions and improve efforts to monitor and control VOC and methane emissions from well sites while offering industry a tool to help capture as much product as possible.

Division staff members continue to process high-priority, complex permits for new facilities or major expansions of existing facilities to retain and support Ohio business opportunities. For example, Ohio issued final permits for:

- DTE Marietta for a new co-generation facility;
- Carroll County Energy LLC for a natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine electric utility power plant;
- PCS Nitrogen Ohio, L.P. to increase urea and ammonia production; and
- Lima Refining Co. to increase the refinery's flexibility for processing crude oil with higher sulfur and acid contents.

Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

In State Fiscal Year 2014 (SFY14), 98 percent of Ohio's community public water systems met all health-based water quality standards.

The division launched the *Save a Dime. Sample on Time!* program to reduce total coliform and nitrate monitoring violations at public water systems (PWS). The program creates awareness about the need for operators to protect public health in their communities by sampling in a timely manner. Outreach activities regarding the new program started in August 2013 and compliance has already improved significantly. The division also initiated a program to address laboratory reporting violations and has seen significant improvement in timeliness of reporting.

Additionally, the division awarded 43 loans to PWSs totaling \$48.5 million and offered \$3.5 million in principal forgiveness (subsidies) through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA).

Water systems that receive principal forgiveness through the WSRLA were required to complete free training on how to finance and manage a public water system. A total of 468 people from 244 public water systems were trained in utility, asset and financial management through online and fall on-site classes.

Operator Certification

Operators are now able to schedule computerized examinations on days and in locations that are convenient to them across the state. Previously, operators needed to travel to Columbus for an exam date in November or May. A new electronic application and payment program will allow operators to apply and pay for exam and renewal applications online. Training providers will also be able to apply for course approval and track students' course attendance using the system.

Response to Harmful Algal Blooms at Public Water Systems

In 2013, Ohio EPA partnered with the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development to sample for cyanotoxins and other parameters throughout the treatment train of six Lake Erie PWSs. In addition, Ohio EPA collected samples for cyanotoxin analysis from 23 PWSs and reviewed data from seven PWSs that voluntarily conducted cyanotoxin sampling. Ohio EPA continues to provide direct assistance to PWSs and revised the eligibility criteria for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to include funding for infrastructure projects that address cyanotoxins.

At the national level, Ohio EPA worked with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators to create a forum on PWS harmful algal bloom (HAB) impacts and participated in several meetings with U.S. EPA leadership to request development of national health advisory guidance and research on treatment optimization for cyanotoxins. The National Drinking Water Advisory Council invited Ohio EPA to share information on Ohio's experience responding to HABs at PWSs.

Source Water Protection

The division provided direct technical assistance to 90 public water systems and endorsed 13 locally developed plans to protect sources of drinking water, of which seven were watershed-based plans for surface water systems. Together, these systems provide drinking water to more than 175,400 Ohioans. Preventing contamination of source waters is the first step to ensuring a safe supply of drinking water. Almost 40 percent of Ohio's cities and villages now have endorsed source water protection plans.

Ground Water Quality Characterization

The division collaborated with OSU Extension and the Ohio Department of Health to develop a new tool to assist drinking water well owners in interpreting their water quality. The "Know Your Well Water" tool is available at ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/well-educated-ohio. When water test results are received from a laboratory, a well owner can enter them into the website and get an understanding of where they fall within the typical ranges for the aquifer type, standards for the constituents, any health or aesthetic effects and treatment options.

Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization

Responding to Emergencies

The Emergency Response program staff documents pollution incidents, provides technical assistance and guidance, and answers questions concerning environmental issues through more than 10,000 calls each year on its toll-free emergency spill hotline. In SFY14, duty officers recorded approximately 3,000 initial pollution incident reports for incidents involving releases of hazardous substances, oil and other pollutants. About 30 percent of these reports were received after regular business hours, and 15 percent of all documented reports were received on weekends. On-scene coordinators responded to more than 850 of these incidents to investigate, provide technical assistance to first

responders, mitigate and abate releases, and oversee cleanup activities. They also provided technical assistance to local responders by phone on nearly 325 additional incidents.

Addressing Abandoned Waste

During SFY14, the Orphan Drum Program received 50 reports of abandoned/illegally dumped orphan drums, of which 31 required cleanup. A total of 207 containers, comprising 2,365 gallons and 12,461 pounds of solid and hazardous waste, were evaluated and disposed of properly. In addition, the Orphan Drum Program assisted the Emergency Response Program at 10 sites where a total of 7,374 gallons and 69,530 pounds of spilled materials and wastes were cleaned up and properly disposed.

Promoting Property Reuse

Through the Voluntary Action Program (VAP), the division issued 42 covenants not to sue to properties deemed protective of human health and the environment. The VAP provides communities with an avenue for the productive reuse of once-blighted properties. Since the inception of the program, more than 10,000 acres of Ohio land have been made available for reuse. The program provided technical assistance to 149 property owners or volunteers to facilitate voluntary action activities. Pass-through brownfield grants from U.S. EPA financed free assistance for 101 municipalities, allowing them to make significant progress with their site assessments and cleanups.

Site Investigation

In April 2014, the Site Assistance and Brownfield Revitalization (SABR) program at Ohio EPA hosted its fifth Ohio Brownfield Conference in Columbus. The conference was attended by more than 370 local, state and federal officials, along with consultants, attorneys, laboratory representatives, nonprofit organizations and remedial contractors. During the last year, SABR and Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) began partnering with JobsOhio to begin developing procedures that merge the brownfield cleanup and redevelopment goals with the industry and job creation goals of JobsOhio. Following these new procedures, Ohio EPA, ODSA and JobsOhio awarded \$6,515,589 in grants for Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund projects and \$6,168,600 in grants for Clean Ohio Assistance Fund projects.

The division conducted 18 targeted brownfield assistance (TBA) projects during SFY14 to determine if contamination exists, bringing the total evaluated to date to more than 2,538 acres at 124 properties. TBAs are conducted free of charge at the request of local governments and can help communities plan for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties.

Division of Materials and Waste Management

Glass Recycling

In addition to continuing work with glass processors such as Rumpke and Strategic Materials and end users of the recycled glass such as Owens Illinois, Owens Corning and Johns Manville, staff held several regional meetings with solid waste districts and others to develop strategies and programs to increase glass collection. The division also helped develop a glass recycling toolkit and a web page devoted to the statewide glass recycling initiative. In addition, Ohio EPA provided a grant to the city of Columbus to start "Recycling on High," where bars and restaurants along High Street are provided with containers to encourage glass recycling. Since the beginning of the year, 35 bars and restaurants have signed up for the program, resulting in more than 87 additional tons of glass being recycled.

Big City Recycling Project

The division continued its "Big City" recycling project by hosting a face-to-face meeting with the six largest cities in Ohio to discuss their curbside recycling and additional program options. The division also sponsored a webinar for the next tier of large Ohio cities. While significantly smaller in size than the six original participants, these communities face many of the same challenges and it is hoped that they can benefit in a similar way.

BioCycle Conference

Ohio's progressive anaerobic digestion, biogas and composting regulations were noted by attendees to the BioCycle conference on Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling (REFOR) in Columbus. The conference was a huge success, with more than 500 attendees representing 35 states/territories and nine countries.

Model Recycling Education, Outreach and Marketing Plan

The division worked with a team of graduate students in Miami University's Institute of Environment and Sustainability to develop an education, outreach and marketing plan for the Brown County Solid Waste Authority. The outreach plan, which will be used as an example for other solid waste management districts, is required by the State Solid Waste Management Plan.

Solid Waste Landfill and Transfer Facility Management of TENORM Drilling Operations Material

The division, coordinating with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Radiation Protection and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, sought early stakeholder input on approaches toward development of new solid waste landfill and transfer facility regulations based upon the July 1, 2013, passage of House Bill 59. These rules will govern the landfill or transfer facility's acceptance and management of drilling operations material classified as technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM). With consideration of early stakeholder input, the division is developing draft rules to be released for interested party review and comment.

Cleanup of Scrap Tire Sites

Ohio EPA contractors removed and disposed of 145,916 passenger tire equivalents (PTEs) or about 1,458 tons of illegally dumped scrap tires collected from 70 sites in 33 counties, at a cost of \$354,791. The average number of PTEs per project was 2,085 at an average cost of \$5,068 per project, bringing the average cost of remediation to \$2.43 per PTE.

More than 90 percent of the scrap tires collected in Ohio continue to be recycled and reused, primarily as aggregate substitute for civil engineering projects and for the production of many rubber products.

Beneficial Use

The division, along with the Division of Surface Water and Office of Legal Services, continued the significant effort to develop an effective, regulatory-based beneficial use program to promote responsible and beneficial use of certain industrial wastes in Ohio. Since June 2012, Ohio EPA has hosted a series of stakeholder meetings and recently released two examples of a beneficial use general permit and a conceptual draft on co-products.

Coordinating with ODH and ODNR, the division sought early stakeholder input on approaches toward development of beneficial use rules for a specific category of drilling materials. The July 1, 2013, passage of House Bill 59 provided Ohio EPA the authority to establish rules on the beneficial use of horizontal well materials exposed to refined-oil based substances. These materials must be naturally occurring radioactive material. With consideration of early stakeholder input, the division is developing draft rules to be released for interested party review and comment.

The division reviewed and approved 31 beneficial use projects, which authorized the diversion of more than 2.3 million tons of discarded material from the waste stream. These materials were authorized for beneficial use in a variety ways, including as agricultural amendments, structural fill and alternative composting feedstock.

Material	Tons/Year
Alum sludge	24,726
Asphalt and dirt mixture	51
Contaminated soil	4,389
Dredged material	44
Drill cuttings	25
FGD waste	2,200,000
Foundry sand	20,700
Lime sludge	61,650
Paper mill waste	14,200
Spent bleaching earth	7,300
Wastewater treatment plant sludge	8,030
Total:	2,341,115

Division of Surface Water

Dredge Material Use and Disposal

Ohio EPA is increasing efforts to develop beneficial use options for dredge material as an alternative to open-lake placement. The Agency identified \$10 million of funding from Governor John R. Kasich's capital budget to promote alternative beneficial uses for dredge materials. These funds will allow dredging of the economically important Toledo and Cleveland Harbor federal shipping channels to proceed, while moving toward a goal of reducing and eventually eliminating open lake placement of dredge materials.

Staff devoted a considerable amount of time reviewing the Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) applications from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to place dredged material from Cuyahoga Harbor and Toledo Harbor in Lake Erie. Ultimately, the Agency determined that the dredged material from the Cuyahoga could not be disposed of in Lake Erie but must be placed in a confined disposal facility due to contaminants in the material. Ohio EPA also placed a condition on the WQC for Toledo, a first-of-its-kind agreement between USACE and Ohio EPA, where the State of Ohio will evaluate various beneficial use options for the dredge material. Once a project is identified, the USACE will provide dredge material for the project.

Improving Water Quality Standards

In an effort to build on the nutrient management partnerships across the state, the division formed a Nutrient Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in November 2013 to advise the Agency as it moves forward with developing State water quality standards for nutrients. A subgroup is nearing completion on a transformation of the Trophic Index Criterion into the Stream Nutrient Assessment Procedure. At the request of regulated industry, the division's wetland ecologist has developed a simpler, quicker assessment method for determination of wetland quality. The Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity "Floristic Quality" (VIBI-FQ) was developed as an enhancement to the existing Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity protocols for Ohio. The streamlined version reduces the amount of field data necessary for assessment and simplifies the calculation and interpretation of a final score. It is based exclusively on the principle of plant species sensitivity. The VIBI-FQ is proposed to be a substitute tool for monitoring site development in wetland restoration projects, including mitigation sites, within Ohio.

Nonpoint Source

The division completed an update and revision to the Ohio Nonpoint Source Management Plan, which guides Ohio's implementation of state and local nonpoint source management measures and activities. In federal fiscal year 2014, 15 grants were awarded for approximately \$1.9 million. Also, 17 Surface Water Improvement Fund grants were awarded totaling more than \$1.7 million.

Water Quality Monitoring and Improvements

During 2013, the division conducted comprehensive surveys in several watersheds across the state: the St. Joseph and Tiffin rivers in the northwest, the lower Mahoning River in the northeast, the tributaries to the Muskingum River in the southeast, the Stillwater River in the southwest and Bokes Creek in central Ohio. Biological, physical habitat and water chemistry assessments were completed at more than 250 sampling locations in these watersheds and results are being analyzed and assessed. Results will be reported in individual watershed survey reports (TSDs) and collectively summarized in the 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Preparations are underway for similar measurements during 2014 in the Little Auglaize River in the northwest, the Rocky River in the northeast, Wills Creek in the southeast, Mill Creek and Ohio River tributaries in the southwest and Big Darby Creek in central Ohio.

The division's Modeling and Assessment section assisted with nonpoint source grant projects in Powell Creek and Lye Creek watersheds in northwest Ohio. Staff set up level monitoring stations, collected water quality samples and recorded numerous flow measurements.

Ohio EPA received approval from U.S. EPA on two total maximum daily load (TMDL) reports. The report for Moxahala Creek watershed, a small watershed in the Muskingum basin of southeastern Ohio was approved in July 2013. The other report included TMDLs for the Ottawa River in the Lima area in the Maumee basin in northwest Ohio. The TMDL

program currently has 55 approved projects and more than 30 projects in various stages of development, including work expected to be completed in the coming year in the Sandusky, Scioto, Great Miami and Maumee basins.

Surface Water Permitting and Compliance

The Compliance Assistance Unit provided assistance to approximately 90 facilities, participated in more than 20 training events or workshops related to operations of wastewater treatment facilities with audiences exceeding 500 attendees. Staff also participated as a key member of the Ten States Standards committee to develop revised national standards for common practices related to wastewater treatment plant design.

Over the past year, staff within the Permits and Compliance Section issued 41 Section 401 WQCs, 33 Level One Isolated Wetland Permits, 10 Level Two Isolated Wetland Permits and 32 Director's Authorizations. The average issuance time of Section 401 WQCs was 130 days; the statutory deadline is 180 days. Additionally, the permit backlog has been eliminated.

The division is developing a proposed rule for implementation of in-lieu fee programs, as required by Senate Bill 294, which was signed by Governor Kasich on June 5, 2012. These revisions to state law and rule will allow an approved entity to create an in-lieu fee program that can be used as mitigation by applicants for Section 401 WQCs. Discussions with interest groups on the draft proposed rule are nearing completion and it is anticipated an approved program will be operational in 2014.

The division issued 504 individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to municipal and industrial facilities. Coverage under general (non-storm water) NPDES permits was granted to 171 permittees. Staff also conducted more than 1,700 compliance inspections at regulated facilities.

The division processed more than 6,000 storm water applications and conducted more than 2,190 compliance inspections at facilities with regulated storm water discharges. The division processed more than 1,100 permit-to-install applications, with an average of 32 Agency review days. The division has been successful in reducing permitting delays and maintaining review times below the regulatory deadline of 180 days.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

In 2014, the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance was responsible for providing millions of dollars to help protect and improve drinking water in communities all across Ohio. The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loans for drinking water improvements totaled \$48.5 million and the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) loans for protection from surface and ground water pollution totaled \$360 million.

During 2014, the WPCLF awarded loans for a total of 129 assistance activities, ranging from a small loan of \$10,000 to a large loan of \$57,479,355. Funded projects included planning, design and construction activities for municipal wastewater treatment as well as nonpoint source (NPS) projects.

Highlights

- 82 WPCLF wastewater treatment works projects received low-interest loans totaling \$343,929,815.
- 12 loans for \$81,480,682 assisted the planning, design and correction of combined sewer overflows.
- 14 loans totaling \$34,152,870 provided new sanitary sewer service to approximately 5,100 Ohioans.

Division of Environmental Services

The Agency's laboratory analyzed 11,085 chemistry, microbiology and bioassay samples covering a variety of matrices: water (7,793); air (2,495); fish tissue (611); and sediment (186). Analysis of these samples resulted in 136,352 inorganic and 78,316 organic analytical results being approved.

Staff developed and implemented methods for the analysis of low-level phosphorus in water and a more cost-effective method for the analysis of atrazine; tested and changed lysing method for algal toxins to improve toxin recoveries; and conducted research for organic prep to reduce solvent usage and shorten prep time.

Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Environmental Stewardship Recognition

To highlight the environmental stewardship efforts businesses are making in Ohio, the office offers the Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) recognition program. On Earth Day in April 2014, the Agency presented the first-ever Gold Level award to Crown Equipment in New Knoxville, Ohio; the event was widely publicized on the news and social media. In addition, six Ohio businesses received the E3 Silver Level award and nine businesses received the E3 Bronze Level award.

Training

The office broadcast six webinars to more than 400 viewers that focused on specific environmental compliance topics. These webinars were recorded and made available through the online training resources in the Agency's new online training catalog.

Along with national and regional pollution prevention organizations, staff helped organize the Great Lakes Green Chemistry Conference held in Cleveland in April. The goal of the conference was to help companies reduce waste through more efficient chemistry in the manufacture of goods and services. The office helped market the conference to universities, businesses and other Ohio organizations and developed the conference brochure and announcement materials.

In addition, the office partnered with a number of organizations to coordinate the third year of a series of highly successful training events to help northeast Ohio communities and businesses prepare for municipal storm water requirements, provide certification for storm water personnel and help metal finishers comply with environmental requirements.

Office of Environmental Education

Recycling Grants

Recycling community grants supported five curbside programs, two commercial recycling programs, four material recovery facilities, and numerous litter and recycling education efforts including special venues like sports stadiums. Litter cleanup and tire amnesty grants helped to expand litter collection efforts in 22 communities, and start or expand scrap tire amnesty collection operations in 18 communities. Market development grants will provide more efficient equipment with the potential to create or retain 44 jobs through development of two Class II composting facilities and expansion of two product manufacturing operations and six processing-related businesses. Scrap tire grants are anticipated to create or retain 29 jobs through the expansion of one scrap tire processing facility and development of a new product manufacturing line.

Career Ambassador Program

In an effort to get more students interested in environmental careers, a new partnership between Ohio EPA, the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources got commitments from more than 460 professionals to volunteer as Environmental Career Ambassadors. The initiative is closely aligned with Ohio's efforts to encourage students to consider careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, and with the Ohio Department of Education's standards encouraging students to explore real-world career opportunities. Ambassadors make classroom presentations, exhibit at school Career Day programs, host field trips and may provide internships and shadowing opportunities for students.

Environmental Education Grants

Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grants are helping to make a difference across the state with efforts to slow storm water runoff and reduce nutrient loadings to rivers and streams. In addition, grants to schools have students monitoring local water quality, studying energy efficiency and measuring the effectiveness of alternatives to road salt.

Diesel School Bus Grants

Students riding 58 Ohio school buses are breathing easier, and 103 school buses no longer need to idle their engines for long periods to warm up fuel lines, thanks to the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund. Grant financing not only reduced children's exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust, but also removed more than 3.7 tons of pollutants from Ohio skies each year that these buses remain in operation. Since the program began, Ohio EPA has installed pollution control equipment onto 2,557 school buses and idle reduction equipment onto 948 buses statewide, removing more than 100 tons of fine particulates, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from the air. Funding comes from a portion of the civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of the state's pollution control laws.

Funding Type	Amount	Number Awarded
Statewide Glass Initiative Grant	\$598,269.45	12
Recycling Community Grants	\$1,456,619.55	25
Litter Clean-up and Tire Amnesty Grants	\$499,985.56	40
Market Development Grants	\$1,715,143.58	11
Scrap Tire Grants	\$600,000	2
Ohio Environmental Education Fund	\$638,202	36
Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships	\$31,250	13
Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund	\$332,947	8
Total	\$5,872,417.14	147

Office of Information Technology Services

Strategic IT Optimization and Consolidation

Established in 2014, the Technology Board is chaired by the State CIO and includes representatives from Ohio EPA, ODNR, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and Ohio Turnpike Commission. Since the group started working together in February 2014, cost savings of \$20,000 have been realized through shared resources.

Ohio EPA has continued to support the overall infrastructure consolidation efforts including: implementation of Active Directory; building a homogenous network for all agencies through migration of all network devices, servers and workstations to the state's network; conversion of all IP address networks to the 10 space addresses; and upgrade of Windows XP to Windows 7, which included replacement of 25 percent of Agency computers.

Public Interest Center

Office personnel reviewed and/or formatted newsletters for three divisions; wrote and designed 26 issues of the employee newsletter; and took photographs to document Agency events. To help users find publications on our website, the office worked with divisions to increase the number of publications available through a searchable online catalog.

During SFY14, PIC's public involvement staff moderated 57 public meetings or informational sessions attended by about 700 people. They responded to about 2,200 calls, letters and emails from the public and sent out more than 6,900 individual citizen advisories. Staff also responded to more than 620 requests for information submitted through the Agency website. The staff coordinated Agency displays including the Ohio State Fair, Earth Day and other community events, and participated in regional discussions regarding environmental justice efforts and initiatives.

The Agency's Twitter following has grown to 2,184 followers, up from 1,220 a year ago. Our Facebook page for Ohio EPA internships gained 214 likes in SFY14 and was used extensively as a marketing tool to attract interns for the summer of 2014.

Staff planned, edited and shot 13 videos including an animated glass recycling piece, a feature piece on recycling for Pelotonia opening ceremonies and a video for Crown Equipment, the state's first Gold Level E3 winner.

The media relations staff issued 227 news releases; responded to more than 1,290 media inquiries; and organized and secured coverage of numerous media events around the state related to recycling grants, the Agency's E3 program and dam removals. In addition, staff provided communications support for the state's Future Cities competition.

Legislative Affairs

Mid-Biennium Budget and Administrative Rules

The mid-biennium budget review (MBR) appropriations bill (HB 483) included changes to the Diesel Emission Reduction Grant Program to streamline the loan administration process and removed the sunset provisions for the Environmental Audit Privilege statute. The Environment MBR (HB 490), anticipated to pass during the lame duck session late in 2014, includes numerous items of importance to Ohio EPA including:

- Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (EPCRA) procedures for oil and gas producers.
- Technical change in the air pollution control statute.
- Lead Free Definition changes to reduce the allowable lead content of plumbing and fixtures from 8 percent to 0.25 percent — necessary to be consistent with the federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011.
- Changes to 6111.99 (Water Pollution Control) – Ohio EPA responded to a recommendation from the state Attorney General to craft this provision that creates a knowing and reckless standard for violations to ensure Ohio does not have to rely on the federal government to respond to violations that occur in the state.

Ohio EPA provided several suggestions to streamline the rule review notification and processing functions during the review and development of Senate Bill 3 Agency Administrative Rules, which makes major changes to the rule-making process utilized by state agencies and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

Agricultural Nutrients and Invasive Plant Regulation

After more than a year of effort, SB 150 Agricultural Nutrients passed, becoming the first legislation of its kind in the United States to establish initiatives to provide effective measures addressing agricultural nutrient runoff and preserve the quality of the state's waters. Ohio EPA's role in wetland protection and mitigation was preserved through our work on SB 192 Invasive Plant Regulation, which established the Ohio Department of Agriculture as the sole authority over regulation of invasive plant species in Ohio.

Emissions Standards

Ohio EPA was successful in amending HB 506 Emissions Standards, which sets a roadmap for Ohio to comply with proposed U.S. EPA rules to control carbon dioxide from existing coal and natural gas power plants and to avoid the imposition of a federal control plan.

Pending Legislation

Ohio EPA worked closely on HB 522 Private Sewer Connection to address situations regarding homeowner connection to privately run sewer lines. This bill, introduced in April 2014, is pending in the Ohio House of Representatives.

HB 336 Fuel Conversion Program provides financial incentives for the advancement of alternative fuels. Among other things, it would create the Gaseous Fuel Conversion Fund to be housed in Ohio EPA. HB 336 passed out of the Ohio House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

Central District Office

Honda of America

In spring of 2013, Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (Honda) requested a combined annual “plant-wide applicability limitation” (PAL) for four Central District Office and two Southwest District Office facilities. A PAL would provide a combined annual “umbrella” limitation for each criteria air pollutant at the six facilities and allow them to avoid conducting new source review determinations for each new project or modification. This strategy would help Honda promote operational flexibility while reducing permit processing times.

Ohio EPA staff worked together to incorporate specifically crafted emissions limitation terms and conditions in each permit to reference all six facilities across the two district offices, met with Honda on a regular basis for status updates and worked with U.S. EPA to resolve their comments. All six permits were issued final in March 2014, in advance of Honda’s requested deadline. This type of complex air permit was only the second one issued in Ohio. The new permits will allow Honda to make operational decisions more quickly to respond to market demand, while also ensuring compliance with air permitting regulations.

Anomatic Corporation

Anomatic Corporation manufactures custom aluminum anodizing packaging for the beauty and personal care industry. In December 2013, the company applied for an air permit as part of a planned expansion at its New Albany location. The addition of two aluminum anodizing process lines would double its anodizing capacity. Anomatic anticipates that the addition of the two new lines will result in approximately 60 new employees. Central District Office staff worked closely with the company to process the permit in an expedited fashion, issuing a final permit in just over a month. Director Butler toured the facility in March 2014, and spoke of the Agency’s commitment to working cooperatively with the business community.

Northeast District Office

Improvements to the Ashtabula River Area of Concern (AOC)

On May 5, 2014, the Ashtabula River AOC became the first in Ohio to receive U.S. EPA’s approval to remove three beneficial use impairments. This significant achievement was made possible through years of coordination between the Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council, Ohio EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. EPA and numerous other federal, state and local stakeholders. The group’s significant restorative efforts, which included the removal of 680,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments, the construction of approximately 2,900 feet of underwater habitat shelf, and the acquisition of approximately 380 acres of riparian property, have improved river conditions to the point that fish consumption, fish populations, and fish habitats are no longer considered to be impaired. The removal of these three beneficial use impairments has cut the Ashtabula River AOC’s list of impairments in half.

Cuyahoga Falls Dam Removals

Two more dams, both in Cuyahoga Falls, were removed along the Cuyahoga River in the summer of 2013. Restoration of the river to its natural, free-flowing state will also increase recreational opportunities for canoeists and kayakers. Funding for the \$1 million project was provided through Ohio EPA’s Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program.



Removal of two dams in Cuyahoga Falls is expected to improve water quality and restore natural aquatic life to approximately two more miles of stream.

Northwest District Office

Successful Cleanup of Ohio's Largest Tire Fire

Fourteen years after one of the nation's largest piles of used tires caught fire near Sycamore, Ohio, Ohio EPA's oversight of the property (Kirby Tire) was completed in September 2013 through the proper abandonment of the 19 monitoring wells that were used to monitor for ground water contamination. It was estimated that the pile contained at least 20 million used tires, with approximately 6 million tires believed to be on fire.

Many federal, state, local and private entities — including several divisions at Ohio EPA — worked cooperatively during the fire emergency and, subsequently, through years of cleanup and monitoring of the environmental conditions that resulted from the fire.

Southeast District Office

The district continued to process high-priority permits for new facilities or expansions of existing facilities to support the growing oil and gas industry in Southeast Ohio, processing a record number of air permits. More than half of the construction and modification permits issued by the district's Division of Air Pollution Control were related to the oil and gas industry, with the majority of activity focused in Harrison (20), Noble (13), Guernsey (12), Monroe (10) and Belmont (9) counties.

This activity is expansive, impacting non-shale counties with increased economic development for the support of the large influx of drilling activity. For example, five large midstream processing plants are being developed in the district.

Permitting for other oil and gas-related facilities increased significantly, including four fractionation facilities, 27 compressor stations, 11 other midstream/processing/pipeline operations, and five oil and gas support facilities.

Air Monitoring

One full year of monitoring was completed to assess air quality at an operating hydraulic fracturing well at the Wilds in Muskingum County. The preliminary assessment, issued in February 2014, is available online at epa.ohio.gov/Portals/27/ams/HydraulicFracturingWellAirMonitoringAssessment_%202013DataUpdateFeb2014.pdf.

Southwest District Office

Paddys Run Conservation Project

Ohio EPA, along with the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, continued to implement the \$13.75 million Fernald natural resource damages settlement by partnering with Three Valley Conservation Trust on the Paddys Run Conservation Project. Settlement funds are used to purchase conservation and agricultural easements to protect water quality in the stream and the underlying Great Miami aquifer. Settlement funds totaling \$2.6 million leveraged an additional \$4.2 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture funds for 2,201 acres of easement purchases.

Total Maximum Daily Load Projects

In 2014, staff continued to formulate the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Great Miami River, the major waterway of the southwest area of Ohio. Sampling survey work was completed for the Stillwater in 2013 and is in progress for the Ohio River tributaries through the summer field season of 2014. This is a milestone point for the southwest district, as it revisits areas that already have an approved TMDL; this is the first opportunity to compare water quality conditions after the TMDL has been implemented. Although data are still being evaluated, areas revisited thus far (upper Little Miami River and the Stillwater) have shown improvements in water quality.

Cincinnati Water Works UV Project

The Greater Cincinnati Water Works has completed construction of a 240 million gallon-per-day ultraviolet disinfection system to provide additional protection from cryptosporidium contamination in the Greater Cincinnati drinking water supply. The construction represents the largest UV system in the state of Ohio. It is also the largest UV system following gravity sand filtration in North America.

Rules - 2013 Summary (7/01/13 - 6/24/14)

The attached table contains those rules that were filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review this fiscal year. This includes all rules adopted, amended, rescinded, and filed as no change within the summary timeframe, the number of rules in the rule package, a brief description of the changes made, and an indication of whether or not the rules were reviewed under the five-year rule review provision, and whether or not the rules went through the Common Sense Initiative Office.

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DAPC	Nitrogen Oxides - RACT	This chapter establishes requirements for emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from very large, large, mid-size, and small boilers, stationary combustion turbines, or stationary internal combustion engines as defined in OAC rule 3745-110-01, or miscellaneous sources located at facilities that emit or have the potential to emit a total of more than one hundred tons per year of NOx emissions from all sources at that facility. NOx is a precursor compound which, along with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can form ozone.	5	Y	Y	07/18/13
DAPC	Asbestos Definitions 3745-20-01	This rule contains definitions used with Ohio's asbestos emission control program. Ohio EPA is amending the definition of "Facility" in paragraph (B)(18) of this rule and deleting the definition of "Residential Exempt Structure" in paragraph (B)(45) of this rule.	1	N	Y	07/18/13
DAPC	Air Curtain Burners	This rule amendment adds the use of Air Curtain Burners as an allowable method for open burning in unrestricted areas.	2	N	Y	08/18/13
DDAGW	Surface Water Treatment	These rules include the following revisions: adding the definition for an uncovered water storage facility previously removed from rule 3745-83-01. Additional revisions include a correction and clarification required for Ohio EPA to maintain primary enforcement authority; aligning source designation provisions with changes being made in rules 3745-81-01 and 3745-81-76 (these changes are part of a separate rules package); clarifications to address the demonstration of alternative technologies, monitoring requirements for systems using grab sampling, and monitoring disinfectant residuals; and removing outdated information.	8	Y	Y	10/05/13
DAPC	Architectural and Industrial Maintenance (AIM) Coatings	These rules regulate emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from AIM coatings distributed or offered for sale in the state of Ohio.	6	Y	Y	10/18/13
DAPC	Clean Air Interstate Rules (CAIR)	Clean Air Interstate Rules (CAIR) program establishes a NOx emission trading program as a means for reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides from large electrical generating units in the state of Ohio.	21	Y	Y	11/14/13

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DDAGW	Laboratory Certification	These rules establish Ohio's program for the certification of laboratories conducting analytical measurements of drinking water contaminants pursuant to the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).	9	Y	Y	Not applicable
DAPC	Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Control Systems	On May 9, 2012, the U.S. EPA Administrator signed a notice of final rulemaking determining that onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) systems are in widespread use throughout the motor vehicle fleet which was published in the Federal Register on May 16, 2012 (77 FR 28772). In light of the formal declaration by U.S. EPA that the ORVR are in widespread use, Ohio EPA has determined that it is necessary to make amendment to paragraph (DDD) of this rule to allow existing Gasoline Dispensing Facilities (GDFs) to decommission their stage II systems.	1	N	Y	01/17/14
DSW	Connection Ban Standards	These rules contain the criteria where connection to local sewerage systems may be prohibited and procedures for obtaining variances from connection bans.	3	Y	Y	04/21/14
DAPC	Transportation Conformity	The purpose of this chapter is to implement Section 176 (c) of the CAA the related requirements of 23 USC 109 (j), and regulations under 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart T, with respect to the conformity of transportation plans, programs, and projects which are developed, funded, or approved by the USDOT, by the Ohio DOT, and by metropolitan planning organizations or other recipients of funds under Title 23 of the United States Code or the Federal Transit Act contained in 49 USC 5303.	6	Y	Y	Not applicable
DMWM	Standards for Solid Waste Management Districts	This rule addresses regulations pertaining to solid waste management districts in Ohio. This rule making is to correct typographical and format errors contained within existing as well as remove outdated references and update this rule to reflect the State Solid Waste Management Plan.	1	Y	Y	05/23/14
DAPC	Permits to Install New Sources	These rules contain Ohio's New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. The amendments include language for incorporation of the U.S. EPA requirements for implementation of the New Source Review (NSR) program for fine particulate matter (that is, particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 2.5 micrometers, generally referred to as "PM 2.5"), promulgated on May 16, 2008, as well as U.S. EPA's requirements for establishing increments, significant impact levels, and a significant monitoring concentration for fine particulate pollution, promulgated on October 20, 2010.	30	Y	Y	05/29/14
DAPC	General Conformity	Federal changes to section 176 of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 51.851 make it optional for the states to maintain their own rules for a general conformity SIP. Because Ohio's rules essentially parroted the language in the federal rules (40 CFR part 92, Subpart B), Ohio EPA determined that continuing to maintain these rules was of no added benefit to Ohio and are rescinding the rules. Future general conformity requirements in Ohio will be addressed according to the federal requirements in 40 CFR Part 92.	6	Y	Y	Rescind effective 06/12/14

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DDAGW	PWS	These rules clarify the definition of a public water system (PWS) by setting default populations.	1	Y	Y	06/19/14
DDAGW	Source Designation	Revisions are being made to allow the division to designate the majority of sources by rule with an allowance for the director to designate a well as surface water under certain circumstances.	1	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends 07/18/14
DSW	Great Miami River Drainage Basin	This rule contains the beneficial use designations for the Great Miami River basin. The revisions include 1) addition of site specific aquatic life copper criteria for two stream locations, and 2) updates to beneficial use designations in the lower Great Miami River watershed.	1	N	Y	09/01/14
DDAGW	License to Operate	These rules include proposed revisions to these rules including the addition of the definition of "license to operate" as well as clarification of other definitions; adjusting terminology to match definition changes; clarification of how the director acts on LTO applications; public notice requirements; clarification of how fees are determined; and, allowing access to the public water system.	6	Y	Y	07/01/14
DSW	Thallium Criteria	This rule contains the numeric criteria protective of wildlife and human health. The proposed revision the Agency is considering is the removal of the thallium nondrink human health water quality.	1	N	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ended on 06/15/14
DMWM	Composting Standards Corrections	These rules address composting regulations. The purpose of this rule making is to correct two errors in the three compost quality standards rules. "Table 1 – heavy metals" as written, contain typographical errors. The errors are identical in each rule and include the following: 1. The Selenium analytical methods column is missing "6020A" after the "SW-846" method. 2. The Zinc analytical methods column is missing a "SW-846" before method "6020A."	3	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 06/22/14
DERR	VAP	These rules clarify eligibility for participation, revise program fees to more closely match costs actually incurred by the Agency, revise the generic numerical risk standards, update the property specific risk assessment procedures, clarify ground water classification and potable use response requirements, better define where an urban setting designation may be applied, create a remediation modification process, revise variance protocol and include case-by-case determinations, incorporate a new no further action letter (NFA) review process, include new audit selection guidelines for NFA letters, and update other program procedures.	14	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 06/28/14
DMWM	Municipal Solid Waste and Scrap Tire Monofill and Monocells	These rules Include requirements pertaining to exemptions, relationships to other laws, permit to install applications, landfill construction, operating record, final closure and post closure care of landfill facilities, explosive gas migration, and procedures to engage in filling, grading, excavating, building, drilling, mining on land where a solid or hazardous waste facility was operated.	15	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 07/22/14

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DMWM	Industrial Solid Waste	The industrial solid waste landfill regulations address the siting, design, permitting and licensing, construction, operation, and closure of industrial solid waste landfill facilities.	7	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 07/23/14
DDAGW	Miscellaneous 2014	These rules include radiological MCLs, lead and copper rules, acceptability of analytical results, disadvantaged community loans, drinking water source protection plans and underground injection control rules.	27	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 07/23/14
DAPC	Nitrogen Oxide Standards	These rules contain the requirements for ascertaining, defining, and measuring ambient air quality as related to concentrations of nitrogen oxides.	2	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 08/26/14
DAPC	Facility emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form	This rule requires each owner or operator of a facility that is subject to OAC rule 3750-30-01 to annually prepare a facility emergency and hazardous chemical inventory report. The plan is required to contain the information outlined in this rule. The draft amendments bring the rule into line with federal reporting requirements.	1	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 08/13/14
DMWM	MSW and ISW Appendices	These rules include requirements pertaining landfill construction for municipal solid waste and industrial solid waste landfills. JCARR identified that the appendices were not included when filing as no-change, withdraw and no-change with the appendices.	4	Y	Y	In process - JCARR jurisdiction ends on 08/26/14