

1. HIGHLIGHTS

A. SPILL HIGHLIGHTS



Akron Waste Water Treatment Plant

0801-77-0261: A large amount of yellow-green fluorescent sewer dye was discharged into the City of Akron's sewer system on January 22, 2008. The dye flowed into the City's 70 MGD sewage treatment plant and turned the waste water in the plant green. The dye was not affected by the plant's treatment system so the effluent discharging into the Cuyahoga River from the plant was also fluorescent green.

The discharge from the plant discolored the water in the Cuyahoga River and Ohio Erie Canal for 30 miles from Akron to Cleveland. The City of Cleveland's 200 MGD sewage treatment plant had the same thing happen 3 months earlier. That incident caused the Cleveland Southerly Sewage Treatment Plant's effluent to turn fluorescent green and flow into the Cuyahoga River. In both cases the dye caused no environmental harm and dissipated before plant personal could trace the dye to a source. Ohio EPA's Division of Emergency and Remedial Response and Division of Surface Water are investigating the incident and have considered many possible sources that could have caused the incidents. The amount of sewer dye needed to cause the incident in Akron would be approximately 25 pounds or more of powdered dye or 55 gallons of liquid. No incident similar to this has ever happened to either plant before or any other sewage treatment plant in the Northeast District.



Cuyahoga River



Cleveland Waste Water Treatment Plant