ARCHIVE: **Archived to revise and clarify the guidance within the document and because revisions made to VAP rules in 2002 in OAC Chapter 3745-300 render inaccurate the rule citations in this document (technical content remains accurate under the 1996 VAP rules). Refer to VA30007.03.007 for the updated document.**

OHIO EPA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY AND REMEDIAL RESPONSE
VOLUNTARY ACTION PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #2: Classifying Ground Water Based on Maximum Yield

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PURPOSE

This series of fact sheets is intended to provide guidance regarding the Agency's position concerning the interpretation of certain Voluntary Action Program (VAP) rule requirements. The information provided within these documents is based upon Agency evaluation of several VAP no further action letters submitted with the intent of obtaining a covenant not to sue as well as assistance provided for several VAP technical assistance projects.

QUESTION

When choosing to classify ground water by determining maximum yield rather than average yield over 12 months, how should the volunteer proceed?

ANSWER

If a volunteer chooses to determine a maximum yield, they should either: a) test at the time of highest yield, or b) test at some other time, provided that certain criteria are met.

Ground water yield generally increases with the higher water levels. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the times of highest water level in Ohio are typically March through May. Therefore, volunteers should generally target this time frame for determining maximum yield. The investigation should include an

evaluation of available pertinent information (e.g. historical and current precipitation and area ground water levels) to verify, if possible, whether the timing truly represents maximal conditions.

When an expected time of maximum yield proves invalid or when a volunteer wishes to avoid collecting data over an entire year or waiting for March-May, measurements made at times of less than maximum yield can be used when:

- The yield determined is so far below a criterion that it is unlikely that a test conducted during a higher yield time of the year would lead to a different classification. For example, if the yield of a sand and gravel deposit determined in the summer is 30 gpm, it is unlikely that a spring measurement will fall above the Critical Resource criterion (100 gpm). Generally speaking, the Agency will be comfortable if the yield is 35% below the cut-off value and the yearly average does not exceed the critical cut-off value. If the data does not fall within 35 % and the certified professional believes that additional testing is not necessary, then the certified professional is encouraged to approach the Agency for VAP technical assistance.

- The testing was conducted at times that were not between March and May, but information was available to indicate that the time period was representative of the period of historical maximum yield due to higher than normal water levels.