

ATTACHMENT A  
WQMP Process

Background

The Areawide Waste Treatment Planning process as described in Section 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) required that the Governor of each State identify areas within the State which, as a result of urban-industrial concentrations or other factors, had substantial water quality control problems. To meet the requirements of the CWA, 208 Basin Plans were prepared. These Basin Plans described the point and nonpoint source pollution problems in the basin and the most critical areas were identified. In 1973, the Governor designated six areawide planning agencies to be responsible for addressing water pollution problems within their areas of the State (map 1). The six designated agencies are: Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO), Eastgate Development and Transportation Agency (EDATA), Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC), Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). Water Quality Management (WQM) Planning for the areas outside the jurisdiction of the six areawide planning agencies is performed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

The funds to update the 208 Basin Plans were never fully appropriated by Congress and in 1981 Congress changed the authorization to continue WQM Planning from CWA Section 208 to Section 205(j). The requirements of this Section are described in CWA Section 205(j)(2). The federal regulations pertaining to WQM Planning are contained in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 130.

Although the CWA Section 208 Basin Plans were never fully updated after the initial Plans were written, the requirements of Section 208 and 205(j) have been carried out for the State of Ohio in programs described in the elements of the Planning and Implementation Program Process (PIPP) of the current WQM Plan. The nine elements contained in the PIPP are described in 40 CFR Part 130.6(c)(1)-(9). These elements are: 1) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), 2) Effluent Limitations, 3) Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment 4) Nonpoint Source Management and Control, 5) Management Agencies, 6) Implementation Measures, 7) Dredge and Fill Programs, 8) Basin Plans, and 9) Ground Water. Examples of some of the items included in these elements include a the total number of the TMDL's calculated for stream segments in the State, a total number of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued for major dischargers in each basin in the State, entities that have received funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF), the Ohio Nonpoint Source Assessment and Nonpoint Source Management Program, CWA Section 319 funded projects and the Ohio Wellhead Protection Program.

Ohio EPA has primary responsibility for developing elements (1) Total Maximum Daily Loads, (2) Effluent Limitations, and (7) Dredge and Fill

Programs. There is shared State and local responsibility for elements (3) Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment Needs, (4) Nonpoint Source Management and Control, (5) Management Agencies, (6) Implementation Measures, (8) Basin Plans and (9) Ground Water. Where Ohio EPA has primary responsibility, special projects may be contracted with local units of government to address specific issues and problems.

Federal regulations state that Ohio update the WQM Plan as needed. These regulations include procedures and minimum conditions for WQM Plan development, gubernatorial certification and the annual negotiation with the USEPA program plan. Also new statutes, such as the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act, require that the Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) be incorporated into the WQM Plan. The 1987 amendments to the CWA provided the allocation of funds for the development of CWA Section 319 projects for the control of nonpoint source pollution. A description of these projects are included in element 130.6(c)4: Nonpoint Source Management and Control.

#### Significance of Water Quality Management Plan

The WQM Planning process is designed to produce an implementable program which meets Ohio's water quality needs and fulfills the requirements of State and federal laws. The CWA amendments as passed in 1973, 1977, 1981 and 1987, define the national goal of eliminating the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters and achieving water quality level that will protect fish, shellfish and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the water wherever attainable.

Ohio's WQM Planning process is designed to integrate both the identified technical needs for pollution control and federal, State and local institutional and management initiatives designed to implement the controls. The Plan identifies problem areas while recognizing constraints in dealing with those problem areas. Structural and non-structural alternatives are developed to correct local water quality problems and achieve Ohio's Water Quality Standards and the national goal.

WQM Planning is a significant tool in Ohio's pollution control efforts because it provides links between sections in the Clean Water Act and local water quality protection efforts. As an example, Ohio's WQM Plan affects funding for local wastewater treatment facilities under Section 201 of the CWA and NPDES permits issued by Ohio EPA to local wastewater dischargers under Section 402 of the Act. Entities applying for funding through the WPCLF must go through the Facility Planning Area (FPA) process described in 40 CFR Part 130.6(c)(3): Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment, before qualifying for funding. The FPA process constitutes an update of the WQM Plan.

The Plan provides management and control recommendations for the diverse sources of nonpoint pollution which affect every river basin in the State. Key State ground water strategies include the Nonpoint Source

Management Plan, Nonpoint Source Assessment, the Ohio Wellhead Protection Program, the Ohio Ground Water Protection and Management Strategy and the 305(b) report. The RAPs are new key elements to the Plan as a requirement of the 1990 Great Lakes Critical Programs Act. All of these elements can be classified into two basic categories; assessment of problems and management strategies. As part of the certification documentation in this package, the PIPP provides the status of each element of the WQM Plan.

### Certification Process and Documentation

To certify the Ohio WQM Plan, Ohio EPA assembles documentation of the updates to the Plan and coordinates the public review process. The update documentation is contained in Attachments B through E of this package.

Attachment B contains a list of the documents completed since the last certification. The inclusion of the documents in the WQM Plan is the main purpose for the WQM Plan for 1993.

Attachment C includes the PIPP which contains descriptions of WQM Planning activities. The PIPP is organized by the elements established in federal regulations previously cited. Plan updates from MVRPC, TMACOG, NEFCO, OKI and EDATA, as well as Statewide updates, are included in the 1993 certification package. Responsibility for updating the Plan is shared between Ohio EPA and the planning agencies designated for WQM Plan development.

Attachment D lists entities which submitted Statements of Commitment under the Construction Grants program prior to 1989 and have yet to be designated as local management agencies by the Governor (Category 2). Since the beginning of the WQM Plan, Attachment D has been a cumulative list of entities who have signed Statements of Commitment and have been placed in one of five certification categories. The WPCLF came into existence in 1989 and all communities receiving financial assistance from 1989 to the present will be listed in WQM Plan element 130.6(c)(5): Management Agencies in this and future updates. The designation of the management agencies listed in Attachment D will be reviewed in future WQM Plan updates and revisions to the list will be made where appropriate.

All documents prepared for the Plan are available for public review. Public hearings on the WQM Plan update are held at one designated location for the entire State. Two public hearings will be held for the 1993 update on May 27, 1993 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Ohio EPA Central Office located at 1800 WaterMark Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Attachment E, Responsiveness Summary, contains the comments, and responses to those comments, raised at the Ohio EPA WQM Plan Hearings. This step generally concludes documentation of the WQM Plan prior to transmittal to the Governor for Certification.

After review and certification by the Governor, the certified WQM Plan is forwarded to the Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA in Chicago. Once USEPA responds to Ohio EPA's request for Plan certification, Ohio EPA then notifies each appropriate areawide planning agency of the approval status.

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