

December 7, 2006

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet For

General Permit to Install Sanitary Sewer Extensions

I. Background

The Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water (DSW) is working to improve our review consistency and streamline the Permit to Install (PTI) review process, hoping to eventually reduce all sanitary sewer extension permit review times to 35 days or less. Currently, PTI applications for sanitary sewer extensions make up 50-60% of the total number of PTI applications for DSW. Many of these sewer extensions are very similar and are easily approved.

The Ohio EPA has elected to issue a statewide general permit in compliance with the Ohio Water Pollution Control Act (Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111) to cover those new sanitary sewer extensions that fall under the guidelines laid out within this permit. This permit will reduce average review time and overall time to receive approval. By providing clear design criteria, it will also improve the consistency of the designs.

The conditions under the heading “eligibility” are important because they provide an explanation of what types of sanitary sewer extensions are covered under this general permit. **Any other installation required by chapter 6111 of the ORC will not be covered under this permit.**

It is important to note that requesting coverage under this General Permit is optional, and applicants may still apply for an individual PTI. Also, any projects that do not meet the criteria in the General Permit must apply for an individual PTI. Application for an individual PTI will remain the same.

II. Description of General Permit Coverage

This permit covers the installation of gravity sewers that connect to existing sewage treatment works with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

This permit does not cover the following:

- Sewer extensions that are less than 8 inches in diameter or greater than 12 inches in diameter.
- Any other installation as required by chapter 6111 of the ORC or any other rule or regulation.
- Sewer extensions in conflict with area wide 208 water quality management plans.
- Projects that meet the antidegradation eligibility requirements of OAC Chapter 3745-1-05(B).
- Sewer extensions that are within 25 feet of a Category III wetland, as defined by the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM).
- Sewer extensions that are proposed within 150 feet of a stream shall fill out a stream evaluation addendum (found online with other forms for this permit). If the proposed project meets any of the following criteria, it is not eligible for this permit:
 1. Scores a 60 or higher on the Stream Evaluation Addendum.
 2. Projects that propose 3 or more stream crossings, or 2 crossings in less than 1 mile; Multi-phase projects should submit the proposed alignments for the entire project so that Ohio EPA can evaluate all of the proposed stream crossings, instead of only reviewing the 1 or 2 crossings that occur in each project phase.
 3. Projects that propose to cross a stream that is designated as a Coldwater Habitat, Seasonal Salmonid Habitat, or Outstanding National Resource Waters, Outstanding State Resource Waters, or Superior High Quality Waters by OAC 3745-1-05.
- Sewer extensions that are tributary to a sewerage system with a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) or a Separate Sanitary Overflow (SSO) unless the owner/operator of the sewage treatment system accepting the waste is listed in Attachment 2 or Attachment 3 of the permit and Ohio EPA has determined that satisfactory progress is being made in implementing that community's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) or that community is working to eliminate overflows or bypasses from the sewage collection and/or treatment system. NOIs for any sewer extension within a sewerage system with a CSO or SSO proposing to discharge to a sewage treatment system listed in Attachment 2 or 3 of the permit where the Attachment indicates that flow trade-offs are needed must include documentation of flow reductions calculated in accordance with Attachment 4 of this permit or in accordance with a methodology previously accepted by Ohio EPA.
- The applicant has a history of noncompliance with the conditions of this permit.
- Projects where construction was initiated prior to receipt of an approved PTI.
- PTIs required pursuant to Director's Final Findings and Orders or Judicial Consent Decrees with the State of Ohio.
- PTIs for proposed projects in the Big Darby Creek Watershed.

- Sewer extensions where all downstream sewers of the proposed sewer extension have not been approved by the Ohio EPA and installed and/or are not operating as intended.

III. Required Notice of Intent Information

To ensure that approvable notices of intent are submitted, Ohio EPA proposes to require the following forms/information in the Notice of Intent for this general permit:

- The appropriate application fees, pursuant to ORC Section 3745.11;
- One copy of a complete and accurate Notice of Intent (NOI) signed by the Applicant, Certification Statements from the sewerage and treatment facilities receiving the proposed wastewater, and a Certification Statement from the design engineer;
- Calculations to demonstrate compliance with Part III of this permit;
- If indicated in Attachment 2 or 3, applications for sewer extensions tributary to a CSO or a SSO must include calculations of flow trade-offs projections or actual reductions;
- Four complete sets of detailed plans.

IV. Ohio EPA DSW Review Procedure

The DSW review of NOI's submitted for this general permit will focus less on the details of the plans and more on larger issues such as the antidegradation rule, 208 Water Quality Management plans, wastewater treatment plant capacities and sanitary sewer capacities. Ninety percent of the NOI's submitted will receive an expedited technical review. The other ten percent will have a detailed review completed. The districts will receive the NOI. The districts will then complete any reviews and send to the Permits Processing Unit in Central Office NOIs for which a general permit authorization may be issued. If there is a problem with the NOI application, the district will summarize the problems with the application and draft a withdrawal letter that the district will issue to the applicant. The withdrawal letter allows the applicant to choose to submit the proper forms for a full review, or submit a letter asking for withdrawal of their current application and submit a new NOI application with the appropriate fees. If the applicant does not act upon the incomplete notice letter within three(3) weeks of its issue date, the application will be processed for denial. Once it is determined that an authorization may be issued based on information contained in the NOI or otherwise available to the Ohio EPA, Central Office will then issue an authorization to install the sanitary sewer extension. The entire review process and issue of the permit authorization should generally take 35 days to complete. This number may go down once the review process is fully determined.

