

PTI News

A Publication of the Division of Surface Water

*"Flush the toilet today, where does it go?
Take a drink tomorrow, where does it come from?"*

Dave Howard

2007 brings many new beginnings for both the Division of Surface Water (DSW) and Ohio EPA. In a continuing effort to provide outreach on all facets of the permit-to-install (PTI) program, DSW will provide bi-annual newsletters to Ohio's regulated community. Our goal is to provide updates on the latest issues affecting the PTI program, including coverage of highlights and key issues pertaining to specific areas of the program.

Changing of the Guard

On January 11, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland appointed Christopher Korleski to the position of director of Ohio EPA. "Chris' experience in both the public and private sector make him exceptionally fit to lead the Ohio EPA," Strickland said. "He will work to protect our families and children through proper environmental protections while encouraging creating good-paying jobs through encouraging environmentally friendly businesses and technologies."

Before former director Joe Koncelik bid farewell to the Agency, DSW staff got a chance to sit down with him to reminisce about his tenure at Ohio EPA and DSW-related accomplishments.

"One key legacy I'll leave behind is the 208 Planning work," said Koncelik. "The project I remember most is the Big Darby Accord in central Ohio. I am very proud of the progressive and novel approach that our Agency used while working to protect this important resource."

Koncelik was also proud of the potential water quality upgrades and cost-effective approaches of the new water quality trading program; land application rules; and more flexibility through better use of the Internet for data reporting.

When asked for words of advice to the new director, Koncelik said, "I hope that the strategic management planning we accomplished during my tenure will help lay the foundation for even more positive improvements to Ohio's environment."

Director Korleski will take the helm February 1, 2007. We will provide more information about his goals and priorities in the next issue.



Joe Koncelik

General Sanitary Sewer Extension Permit-to-Install Debuts Soon

by Jacob Howdysell

DSW will soon release a general permit-to-install for sanitary sewer extensions. The general permit will include specific design criteria for all eligible sanitary sewer extensions (see permit for specific eligibility requirements). Because the permit includes specific design and construction requirements, Ohio EPA will spend less time reviewing the design aspects of these projects and therefore reduce the amount of time required to approve them. Ohio EPA will still conduct a full review on 10 percent of the projects submitted under this general permit to make sure that project designs meet the criteria laid out in the permit. Any questions about the General PTI for Sanitary Sewer Extensions can be directed to Jacob Howdysell (see contact information at the end of the newsletter).



New Rules Strengthen Local Authority of Onsite Systems

by Daniel Kopec

The start of 2007 brings many changes to the way Ohio regulates onsite sewage treatment systems. House Bill 231 (HB 231) mandates that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) update antiquated residential home onsite sewage treatment system rules and, for counties that choose to take on the responsibility, gives local health departments jurisdiction over small-flow onsite sewage treatment systems (SFOSTS) that are sized to handle up to 1,000 gallons per day.

As of January 1, 2007, local health districts can declare whether they will assume jurisdiction over SFOSTS in their area. Individual health districts must submit their decision to ODH and Ohio EPA 60 days prior to the effective date they wish to receive authority over the systems. A full list of counties that have accepted the responsibility of SFOSTS jurisdiction will be provided on both ODH and Ohio EPA's Web sites.

In conjunction with the ODH rule updates, Ohio EPA has been developing onsite sewage treatment system rules (OSTS). Ohio EPA's current goal is to get the rules out for review by early February. The OSTS rule is expected to include:

- mandatory soil analysis for all PTI applications;
- a table outlining when and where onsite sewage treatment systems can be placed; and
- management plan requirements.

For more information about Ohio EPA's onsite sewage treatment program or related materials, please visit the PTI program's Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/index.html.

Permit Reminder for Pretreatment System Construction or Modifications

by Steven Orenchuk

The pretreatment program regulates industrial facilities discharging wastewater to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). These facilities, also known as industrial users, discharge process wastewater into sanitary sewer collection systems. This wastewater is often contaminated by a variety of toxic or otherwise harmful substances. Because POTWs are usually not specifically designed to treat these substances, pretreatment programs are needed to eliminate potentially serious problems that occur when these substances are discharged into public sewer systems.

In order to meet the limitations, the industrial facility must often install a treatment system. Treatment system construction or modification requires submission of a PTI to Ohio EPA. Applicants are encouraged to contact Ohio EPA if there is any uncertainty regarding whether the proposed system will meet requirements.

Controlling Wet Weather Overflows Key to Compliance

by Dan Gill

Combined sewers are built to collect and transport a combination of sanitary and industrial wastewater and storm water runoff to wastewater treatment facilities. When it rains, the volume of storm water and wastewater may exceed the capacity of the combined sewers or of the treatment plant. As a result, a portion of the combined wastewater may be allowed to overflow untreated into the nearest ditch, stream, river or lake. This is a combined sewer overflow, or CSO. As of September 2006, Ohio had approximately 1,350 known CSOs in 98 communities ranging from small, rural villages to large metropolitan areas.

In 1994, U.S. EPA published the national CSO Control Policy. Working from the national policy, Ohio EPA issued its CSO Control Strategy in 1995. In 2000, Congress passed the Wet Weather Water Quality Act, which did two important things. It codified the 1994 national policy by making it part of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and it required that all actions taken to implement CSO controls be consistent with the provisions of the national policy. The objectives of the national policy are:

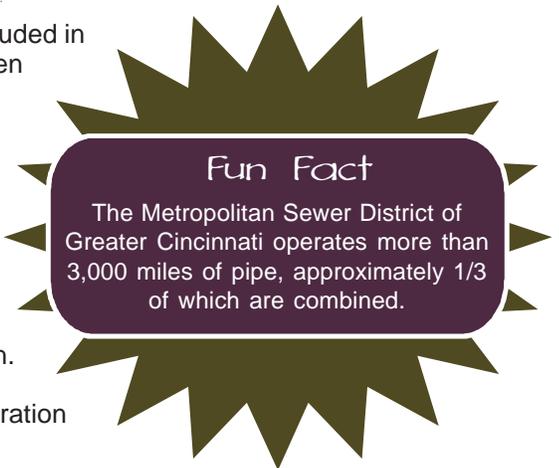


- to ensure that if CSOs occur, they are only as a result of wet weather;
- to bring all wet weather CSO discharge points into compliance with the technology-based and water quality-based requirements of the CWA; and
- to minimize CSO impacts to water quality, aquatic biota and human health.

Ohio EPA continues to implement CSO controls through provisions included in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and, when appropriate, administrative orders and consent agreements. Ohio's NPDES permits require CSO communities to implement nine minimum control measures. As of September 2006, Ohio's progress on long-term control plans (LTCP) included:

- 35 LTCPs submitted but not approved;
- 25 LTCPs required but not yet submitted; and
- 38 LTCPs approved.

Of the 38 approved plans, 28 are eliminating CSOs by sewer separation. The rest are proposing CSO controls. Almost all of the communities using sewer separation are small communities. Of these, 13 have completed separation and 15 have work underway.



Staying on Top of Rule Revisions

This section will provide a list of all rules currently under development, a summary of effective dates for new rules, descriptions of new policies and any training opportunities offered by Ohio EPA or comparable entities.

- Land Application Rule will be effective July 1, 2007.
- Onsite Sewage Treatment System (OSTS) rule will be released for comment in February.
- OSTs rule training will be offered following the adoption of the new OSTs Rule.

The previous list is current as of the publication date of this newsletter. For the most up-to-date information on rules, policies or trainings, visit the PTI program's Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/index.html.

Navigating Construction Storm Water General Permit Requirements

by Mike Joseph

Ohio EPA issued the NPDES construction storm water general permit (OHC100000) on April 21, 2003. In order to assist applicants and holders of this general permit, Ohio EPA has posted guidance documents on storm water pollution plan development, construction activities at agricultural facilities, routine maintenance activities, and post-construction best management practices. These guidance documents are available online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/construction_index.html.

On September 12, 2006, Ohio EPA issued an NPDES general permit to authorize the discharge of storm water from construction activities occurring within the Big Darby Creek Watershed (OHC100001). This general permit became effective on October 27, 2006. All construction activities within the Big Darby Creek Watershed must apply for and receive coverage under OHC100001. In order to better protect this valuable watershed, OHC100001 is more stringent than OHC100000 through the inclusion of the following added requirements:

- Sediment ponds are required for all projects involving more than five acres of disturbance and must be sized for at least 134 cubic yards per drainage acre.
- Sampling of sediment pond discharge must be performed quarterly to ensure satisfaction of a 45mg/L total suspended solid (TSS) target discharge performance standard.
- There must be a minimum 100-foot riparian setback for every stream.
- The overall post-development ground water recharge for the site must equal or be greater than the pre-development ground water recharge.
- Dry ponds will not be accepted as a post-construction best management practice.
- Storm water pollution prevention plans (SWP3s) must be submitted with the NOI application at least 45 days prior to initiating construction activities.

ODOT filed a protective appeal of the Big Darby Creek Watershed general permit. Discussions have provided ODOT with a better understanding of our expectations regarding mitigation requirements as they pertain to the permit ground water recharge conditions. To view the Big Darby Creek Watershed general permit, please go to www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/GP_ConstructionSiteStormWater_Darby.html

Put Down that Shovel – Don't Dig Without a Permit

Stay in Compliance with the law. Don't construct without an approved PTI from Ohio EPA!

All applicants are reminded that incomplete PTI applications cannot be reviewed by the district offices. Some of the more common items noted on incomplete applications include:

- lack of sewer authority and WWTP approval;
- no professional engineer (PE) stamp, signature and date (if the stamp is electronic, the signature and date must be wet ink, blue or red);
- no antidegradation addendum submitted (required for all projects); and
- for applicable projects, no stream evaluation addendum included.

For a complete list of common errors made on PTI applications, please visit our PTI Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/MistakesListPTIupdate_s.pdf.



Ask the Experts

Q. I need to relocate an existing sanitary sewer so I can construct a new building. Do I need a PTI for this?

A. This would depend on how far you are moving the sewer. As a general rule, **any relocation within 20 feet would not require a PTI where any relocation more than 20 feet would require a PTI. Contact your Ohio EPA district office for guidance about your specific situation.**

Q. I'm planning a sanitary sewer extension. On the PTI application form A, should I mark yes or no on question 11a?

A. You should mark yes here. The question asks "Does this facility **or the facility this project will contribute to** have an NPDES permit?" The sewer extension contributes to a WWTP which should have an NPDES permit. The state and federal NPDES permit numbers need to be filled in for the treatment plant that the sewer extension contributes to.



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