

# 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*

## Overview

Since the last newsletter, some new and exciting things have occurred, including the appointment of a new director to Ohio EPA, the first general permit for the surface water Permit-to-Install (PTI) program, which became effective on March 1, 2007, and several interesting developments in onsite sewage treatment regulation.

## Ohio EPA Spotlight: Director Chris Korleski

Director Chris Korleski took the reins on February 1, 2007. Asked about the current status of the Division of Surface Water and where he foresees the division heading, the Director stated that he wants all divisions to be efficient, responsive and staffed by highly motivated people. In terms of specific environmental issues, Director Korleski said his long-term goals for the Division of Surface Water include addressing failing infrastructure throughout the state and seeing meaningful improvements in the quality of Ohio's waters.

“I want the staff to feel like they have the most meaningful and enjoyable jobs in the world, and I would like to be able to point to very concrete improvements in environmental protection,” he said. “I would like to see a return of prosperity to Ohio, a return which in part will be furthered by Ohio EPA's reasonable and moderate approach to economic development issues. And I would also like to better educate Ohioans on what a great job DSW does to improve the quality of our water.” Director Korleski wants the citizens of Ohio to know, “I believe very strongly in the mission of protecting and restoring Ohio's waters so that all Ohioans can enjoy them. But at the same time, I want industry to know that we are willing to listen to their concerns and proposals with an open mind.”



# Sanitary Sewer Extension General Permit-to-Install Available

by Jacob Howdysell

The General Permit-to-Install (PTI) for Gravity Sanitary Sewer Extensions became effective on March 1, 2007. This general permit may be used to receive an expedited review of projects containing only 8-inch to 12-inch diameter gravity sanitary sewer extensions. If the project can be designed in accordance with the permit requirements, meets the eligibility requirements, and all the plans and forms are completed and submitted correctly, this permit can be obtained in about 30 days. Please note that if Ohio EPA's review uncovers problems in the application, the permit will not be considered for the expedited general permit, but will instead be treated as a normal PTI.

For more details, please see the permit and fact sheet on our Web site at: [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/PTIgravitySewerExtensionFinalJan07.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/PTIgravitySewerExtensionFinalJan07.html).

Ohio EPA provided training on the general permit in May to 49 participants, including consulting engineers and representatives from various municipalities and counties. Questions about the general permit may be addressed to Jacob Howdysell at [Jacob.Howdysell@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:Jacob.Howdysell@epa.state.oh.us) or (614) 644-2018.

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## State Will Re-examine Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems

by Daniel Kopec

The amended House Bill 119 recently passed by the 127th General Assembly rescinded the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) sewage treatment system rules that became effective on January 1, 2007 and restored the previously rescinded ODH rules from 1977. ODH will now need to develop new sewage treatment rules to regulate household sewage disposal systems (HSDS) serving one-, two-, or three-family dwellings and small flow on-site sewage treatment systems.

ODH, along with local health districts, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, industry and many other interested parties, will work through the Home Sewage and Small Flow Onsite System Sewage Treatment System Study Commission until July 1, 2009. The commission's directive is to recommend efficient and effective ways to treat sewage to ensure protection of public health while considering economic impacts. For a recap of the amended legislation, please visit [www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/sewage1.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/sewage1.aspx)

Due to the recent events regarding House Bill 119, Ohio EPA will re-evaluate the time table for developing onsite sewage treatment system rules, or OSTs. Stay tuned for updates in future PTI newsletters, or visit the PTI program's Web site at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/index.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/index.html).

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### Fun Fact

In 2006, 328,857 tons of sewage sludge were used or disposed in the State of Ohio.

# Monitoring Sewer Overflows During Wet Weather

by Dan Gill

Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), which are releases of raw sewage from separate sanitary sewer systems prior to receiving treatment, are becoming a hot topic in the world of wet weather. Contact with these waters can have negative impacts on human health, and should be avoided whenever possible.

To better understand the sanitary sewer overflow situation in Ohio, Ohio EPA now includes new monitoring and reporting requirements in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. All NPDES permits renewed after July 1, 2004, include the new SSO reporting requirements. This is a phased-in approach since each NPDES permit is renewed at a unique time. This means that some municipalities have had these requirements since 2004, some are just now receiving these requirements and others will receive them in the near future at the time of their permit renewal. Eventually, all municipalities will have these requirements.



## What does this new NPDES language require of municipalities?

- Immediate notification (within 24 hours) by phone to Ohio EPA and the appropriate Board of Health for SSOs that substantially endanger human health. These can include SSOs occurring near recreational areas, dry weather overflows, overflows resulting in fish kills, etc.
- Written notification to Ohio EPA (within five days) for SSOs that substantially endanger human health.
- Monthly reporting of all SSOs that have the potential to reach waters of the state.
- Submission of an annual report summarizing all SSOs and basement flooding episodes, including those that do not enter waters of the state.

Appropriate forms for reporting SSOs that substantially endanger human health and for the annual report can be found online at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/).

Once Ohio EPA gains a better understanding of the SSO situation, further measures can be implemented to address these sources of pollution.

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# Pretreatment: Permitting Silver Recovery Units

by Daniel Kopec

Recently a PTI applicability question was raised at one of the Ohio EPA's district offices: Is a permit-to-install required for installation of a silver recovery unit (SRU)?

Ohio Revised Code 6111.44 states "No municipal corporation, county, public institution, corporation, or officer or employee thereof or other person shall provide or **install** sewerage or **treatment works** for sewage, sludge, or sludge materials disposal or treatment or make a change in any sewerage or treatment works until the plans therefore have been submitted to and approved by the director of environmental protection."

There are currently no rules providing an exemption from this requirement. In other words, a PTI is required for installation of an SRU. However, it should be noted that Ohio EPA is working on rules to provide some exemptions and/or general permits for small units such as these when they are discharging to a publicly owned treatment system. Stay tuned!

# Olentangy Construction Storm Water Permit Undergoing Review

by Mike Joseph

Earlier this year, Ohio EPA public issued a draft NPDES general permit to authorize the discharge of storm water from construction activities occurring within portions of the Olentangy River Watershed (general permit # OHC200001). Due to the many comments received (in particular regarding riparian setback criteria), Ohio EPA will re-evaluate the conditions of the draft general permit. Other conditions of the initial draft that differ from the statewide NPDES general permit (OHC000002) include:

- Sediment ponds would have been required for all projects involving more than five acres of disturbance and would have been sized for at least 134 cubic yards per drainage acre;
- Sampling the sediment pond discharge would be performed quarterly to ensure that a 45mg/L total suspended solid (TSS) target discharge performance standard is satisfied;
- There would be a minimum 100-foot riparian setback for every stream;
- Dry ponds would not be accepted as a post-construction best management practice; and
- Storm water pollution prevention plans (SWP3s) would be submitted with the Notice of Intent application at least 45 days prior to initiating construction activities.

To learn more about the Lower Olentangy River Watershed general permit, please visit the following link:  
[www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/OlentangyStormWater\\_Draft\\_GP\\_mar07.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/OlentangyStormWater_Draft_GP_mar07.html)

The draft NPDES general permit to authorize the discharge of storm water from marinas was issued on January 30, 2007, and modified in response to comments received. The general permit is expected to be issued by September 2007. To learn more about the marina general permit, please visit the following link: [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/Marinas\\_Draft\\_GP\\_jan07.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/Marinas_Draft_GP_jan07.html)

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## Rules/Policy/Training

Revised sewage sludge rules have been proposed to the legislature's rule review committee. The changes were all administrative in nature. Ohio EPA's public hearing was July 10 and the legislative hearing will be July 30 at 1:00 p.m. Contact Jacob Howdyshell with any questions regarding these rules.

Ohio EPA would like to develop training sessions for consulting engineers, and we need your input. Is there a particular topic or series of topics relating to the PTI program that you feel unsure about? Please send your comments and suggestions to Daniel A. Kopec at [Daniel.Kopec@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:Daniel.Kopec@epa.state.oh.us).



# Question & Answers

**Q: I am planning two sewer extensions that will be part of the same project, but in different areas. Do I have to submit two separate PTI applications or can I put both extensions on one PTI application?**

**A:** You can put both extensions on one PTI application as long as they are part of one project.

**Q: My local sanitary sewer authority requires that a manhole be placed on all sewer laterals for commercial establishments. Because it is just a lateral, must I submit a PTI for this?**

**A:** Yes. If a manhole, pump station, holding tank, etc., is installed, a PTI is required. If it is just a lateral without a manhole or other structure, then a PTI is not required. See our fact sheet at: [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/PTI\\_Sanitary\\_Sewer\\_Projects.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/PTI_Sanitary_Sewer_Projects.pdf).



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