

# OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

an interstate agency representing: Illinois • Indiana • Kentucky • New York • Ohio • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia  
*1948-2008 Improving Water Quality in the Ohio River Valley for 60 years*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 19, 2008**

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Federal and state agencies are working together on a project to reduce bacteria levels in the Ohio River.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), US EPA (Regions 3, 4, 5) and the six states that lie along the Ohio River are all collaborating on the project.

ORSANCO, through its regular monitoring programs, has identified bacteria problems in almost 500 miles of the Ohio River. These 500 river miles are considered impaired, which means the river may, at times, not be suitable for recreational use.

Once a river or stream, such as the Ohio, has been identified as impaired, the Clean Water Act and US EPA regulations require that a total maximum daily load, or TMDL, be prepared. A TMDL determines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a stream can take in during a single day and still support its designated uses. TMDLs are considered a clean-up plan for polluted streams and rivers.

Where does the bacteria come from? Over 600 facilities discharge into the river, with more than 180 of those being municipal wastewater discharges. In addition, there are 49 combined sewer overflow (CSO) communities with more than 1,000 CSOs that discharge directly to the Ohio River or to tributaries that drain to it. Overflows during rain events can result in direct discharges of untreated storm water and human and industrial waste.

Other point sources of bacteria include illegal separate sanitary overflows (SSOs) which discharge untreated sewage; concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs); slaughterhouses and meat processing facilities; and tanning, textile, pulp and paper factories. Nonpoint sources include overland or groundwater runoff containing feces from wildlife, domestic pets, livestock and land application of manure, leaking or failing septic systems and discharges from vessels.

The Ohio River is 981 miles long beginning in Pittsburgh, PA and ending in Cairo, IL, where the Ohio drains into the Mississippi. The Ohio River Basin covers 204,000 square miles.

A series of public information meetings are planned along the Ohio River in January, 2009 to discuss development of the bacteria TMDL. The meeting schedule is listed below, and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend. More information about the project is available at [www.orsanco.org/watqual/tmdl.asp](http://www.orsanco.org/watqual/tmdl.asp).

ORSANCO is an interstate water pollution control agency for the Ohio River and its tributaries representing Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Federal Government.

## Ohio River Bacteria TMDL Public Meeting Schedule

State	Date	Where	When
IL	Monday January 12	Golconda Pope County High School Rt. 2	6 pm
IN	Tuesday January 13	Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library 200 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. 812-428-8200	2 – 5 pm
KY	Wednesday January 14	Louisville Louisville Water Company Training Rm A 550 South Third St.	1 – 3 pm
OH	Thursday January 15	Cincinnati Anderson Township Hall 7520 Five Mile Rd	2 - 4 pm
WV	Wednesday January 21	Williamstown City Hall 100 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St. Council Chambers	6:30 – 9 pm
PA	Thursday January 22	Pittsburgh PA DEP Offices 500 Waterfront Drive Waterfront A&B Conf. Rms.	1:30 pm