



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER**

P.O. Box 1049, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700

Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Tele: (614) 644-2160 Fax: (614) 644-2737

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Release:** November 3, 2008  
**Media Contact:** Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160  
**Citizen Contact:** Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

### Ohio EPA to Hold Hearing on Statewide Water Quality Certification for Ballast Water Discharges

Ohio EPA has issued a draft statewide water quality certification for public review that adds state conditions for federal authorization of vessel discharges.

A public information session is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 12, 2008, at the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bayshore, Oregon. During the information session, Ohio EPA will present information about the draft certification and answer questions.

A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 2008, at Ohio EPA's Northwest District Office, 347 North Dunbridge Road, Bowling Green. The hearing will conclude after everyone has had an opportunity to comment on Ohio's action. Ohio is not collecting comments on the federal permit.

U.S. EPA issued a draft general permit for a wide variety of vessel discharges, including ballast water, bilge water and gray water discharges. For discharges from vessels to be authorized in Ohio, they would also need to meet the modifications and conditions Ohio is proposing in the draft statewide water quality certification. They include:

- To prevent the spread of invasive species, treatment systems in both ocean-going and lake vessels should be operated to maximize the destruction or removal of organisms in ballast water so that no viable organisms enter Ohio waterways;
- discharges of ballasted sea water within the break walls of Ohio's Lake Erie ports would be prohibited, and Ohio EPA is specifically reviewing and requesting comments on vessel discharges in port, and whether vessels could meet water quality standards for dissolved salts;
- for experimental ballast water treatment systems, chlorine discharges must be limited according to specifications in the certification; and
- biocides other than chlorine used in ballast water treatment must meet Ohio's standards for discharge.

Written comments on the draft statewide water quality certification can be submitted to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43016-1049, through November 26, 2008. Copies of the draft certification and related documents are available for review or to copy at Ohio EPA's Central Office by first calling (614) 644-2001 to make an appointment.

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