



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Release:** January 26, 2009  
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### Ohio EPA Issues Final Storm Water Permit for the Olentangy River Watershed; Permit Affects Construction in Delaware, Franklin, Marion and Morrow Counties

The Olentangy River Watershed will be protected from construction impacts under a revised permit Ohio EPA has issued final for one of Central Ohio's fastest-growing areas. The final storm water general permit applies to construction activities within portions of Delaware, Franklin, Morrow and Marion counties.

Across the country, changing land uses are a challenge. Undeveloped areas are being rapidly converted for residential and commercial purposes. Construction sites can contribute to excessive sediment downstream. High storm water flows erode stable stream banks and cause silt and nutrients from urban and rural areas to stress the watershed. This polluted runoff can impair aquatic life.

Among the most visible and widely publicized threats to the Olentangy River is the conversion of farm and forest acreage to suburban and commercial uses. Ohio EPA studied the watershed and developed a restoration plan for the area in a report, approved by U.S. EPA in September 2007. The report identified and evaluated water quality problems in the impaired areas of the watershed and proposed solutions to help the watershed attain water quality standards. One solution was to develop an alternative storm water general permit to better protect the watershed from the negative water quality impacts that can result from construction activities.

This final permit recognizes the unique characteristics of the Olentangy River Watershed and provides appropriate water quality protection with varying stream setback conditions. Ohio EPA considered the public's comments and concerns about the draft permit by revising conditions prior to issuing the final permit. Ohio EPA held a public hearing on April 30, 2008, in Delaware to accept comments and also received comments in response to the original March 2007 draft permit. Additionally, the Agency met with interested stakeholders (i. e. local community officials and representatives from the building industry and several environmental groups) during two different information sessions.

General permits are effective for five years and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that period. A general permit is one permit covering many locations that have similar discharges. Public comments are evaluated once, when the permit is being developed. Once issued, an individual could request coverage under the general permit by submitting a notice of intent, a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWP3) and paying applicable fees.

Copies of the final general permit and the associated fact sheet are available at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm>. Copies also can be obtained at Ohio EPA's Central Office, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by contacting Jason Fyffe at (614) 728-1793 or via email at [Jason.Fyffe@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:Jason.Fyffe@epa.state.oh.us).

Issuance of the permit can be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). Many appeals must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that

anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

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