



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Takes Next Steps in Recovery Act Funding for Proposed Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Project Lists, Revises Intended Use Plans

Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski today announced that project lists have been revised for the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* funding, resulting in 65 drinking water projects in 52 communities and 267 water pollution control projects in 160 communities. U.S. EPA approved Ohio's plan detailing how ARRA monies would be used and how projects would be selected on May 27, 2009.

Ohio EPA revised the proposed drinking water and water pollution control project lists based on the following items:

- public comments received during the public comment period and public meeting;
- updated information on projects' readiness-to-proceed;
- project rescoring or verification;
- combining phased projects;
- incorporating estimated loan award date changes; and
- adding green infrastructure components.

Ohio EPA's analysis of these factors resulted in changes to the initial draft list of proposed projects which was released on April 23, 2009.

Ohio is receiving \$58.46 million in ARRA funding to combine with \$81 million in non-ARRA funding for drinking water projects. Ohio also is receiving \$220.6 million in ARRA funding to combine with \$805 million in non-ARRA funding for water pollution control projects.

"I must emphasize that the inclusion of a project on the revised list does not guarantee that a particular project will be funded, as the project lists will be subject to change until all funding has been awarded," Director Korleski said. "A listed project may be bypassed for a number of reasons, including withdrawal of the project by the applicant, an inability of an applicant to proceed on schedule, or the inability of an applicant to meet program requirements or requirements of ARRA."

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If a project is bypassed, Ohio EPA will look at other scored, prioritized projects that did not originally qualify for the intended project lists and fund one or more of these projects. Bypassed projects may still be eligible for non-ARRA funding in a future funding year.

When compared to market loan rates, the combination of stimulus grants and low-interest loans, the drinking water assistance fund is estimated to save Ohio communities \$154 million in financing costs over 20 years. The final drinking water project list can be found at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/dwaf_economic_stimulus.htm.

When compared to market loan rates, the combination of stimulus grants and low-interest loans, the water pollution control fund is estimated to save Ohio communities \$500 million in financing costs over 20 years. To view the final water pollution control project list, please visit <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/stimulus.html>.

Both financial assistance programs are well-established and have a successful history in assisting Ohio's communities with low-interest financing for necessary drinking water and water pollution control infrastructure needs. The programs give financial and technical assistance to help Ohioans improve local water systems. Since 1998, the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account has invested more than \$630 million in improvements. Since 1989, the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund awarded more than \$4 billion in low-cost financing for a wide variety of water quality actions.

Ohio EPA directs the loan programs and evaluates proposed projects. The Ohio Water Development Authority manages both loan accounts and issues bonds to ensure financing is available.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us>

Online media kit:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/media/stimulus2.html>

For additional information on the federal program visit:

www.epa.gov/recovery/ - U.S. EPA ARRA fund site

<http://www.recovery.gov/> - federal ARRA economic recovery site