



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: May 19, 2009
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Ohio EPA Accepting Comments on a Water Quality Certification for Some Ohio Department of Transportation Stimulus Projects

Ohio EPA is considering certifying, with conditions, a request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve a regional general permit to collectively cover Ohio Department of Transportation road construction projects that would result in minimal water quality impacts.

Ohio EPA will hold a public hearing to consider public comments on the draft certification at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the Columbus Public Library South High Branch, 3540 South High Street, Columbus.

The proposed federal permit would combine the following three USACE nationwide permits:

- linear transportation projects;
- maintenance activities; and
- temporary construction, access and dewatering.

Ohio EPA proposes to allow some flexibility in work activities involving temporary work areas (e.g., for bridge demolition or construction) by increasing the maximum impacts in streams for these structures from 50 linear feet to 250 linear feet, and increasing the time to completely remove temporary work areas from less than one year to less than two years.

ODOT recently announced 149 projects were slated to move forward with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding which could create more than 21,000 jobs. The federal permit, if approved, could help expedite the approval of some of these projects. Associated construction activity may result in water quality impacts and therefore state certification is necessary to ensure the discharges comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

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Regional General Permit
May 19, 2009
2-2-2-2-2

The conditions and limitations of the general permit are available on the USACE Web site at:

[www.lrh.usace.army.mil/ kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item_id=14861&destination=ShowItem](http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item_id=14861&destination=ShowItem)

Written comments can be mailed to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049. Ohio EPA will consider all comments received by June 4, 2009, before finalizing the certification.

Copies of the draft certification are available on the Ohio EPA Web page at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw.

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