



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Approves Lorain County Sanitary Sewer Project

Ohio EPA has issued a water quality certification to the city of Avon Lake for construction of a regional sanitary sewer system in Lorain County. The certification allows the city to impact up to 9.64 acres of wetlands and 1,850 feet of streams along existing rights-of-way in Carlisle and Eaton townships, and the cities of North Ridgeville, Avon and Avon Lake.

Avon Lake plans to install 135,000 feet of new sewer line, 15 pump stations and a force main to convey wastewater to the city's existing treatment plant. Once complete, the expanded system will replace individual residential septic systems in Carlisle and Eaton townships.

Where possible, wetlands and streams impacted during construction will be restored to pre-impact conditions. The city also will create six acres of forested wetlands and 22 acres of stream buffer along Elk Creek. The mitigation site is located east of Oberlin and south of Carlisle Reservation on undeveloped land owned by Lorain County Metro Parks.

A public hearing concerning the application was held on February 18, 2009, in Elyria. The meeting was an opportunity for citizens to ask questions and submit comments about the proposed project and impacts to wetlands and streams. Ohio EPA responded in writing to public comments. Online copies of the response to comments and water quality certification are available at: www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/lorco_oct09.aspx.

Anyone wanting to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the State must first obtain a water quality certification from Ohio EPA and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA's review is to ensure the project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards.

Ohio EPA considered the technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the project prior to issuing the water quality certification. As approved, the project may change the current water quality conditions in the Black River and Rocky River watersheds, but will not violate Ohio's water quality standards that protect human health and the environment.

Issuance of the water quality certification 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.