



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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Public Invited to Comment on FirstEnergy Permit Modification

A proposed change to the FirstEnergy Lake Shore Plant's wastewater discharge permit will be the focus of a January 21, 2010, Ohio EPA public meeting in Cleveland. The information session and public hearing will begin at 6 p.m. at the Horizon Science Academy, 6000 South Marginal Road.

Ohio EPA has issued a proposed permit modification for FirstEnergy's discharge of mercury at its power plant located at 6800 Marginal Road in Cleveland.

The Lake Shore Plant's wastewater discharge to Lake Erie averages 2.9 parts per trillion (ppt) of mercury, higher than the 1.3 ppt average concentration limit required in its existing permit. To achieve the 1.3 ppt discharge limit, the facility would have to install extremely costly technology that would result in a substantial economic impact to the company. Ohio EPA has evaluated the cost and feasibility of this approach and determined that a more effective way to lower the mercury impact is to reduce the amount of mercury being put into the wastewater system. Therefore, in order to receive a variance from the mercury limit, FirstEnergy would be required to identify the sources of mercury that go to its plant and take steps to minimize the mercury releases from those sources.

This is the second public meeting in Cleveland to discuss the requested permit modification. The first meeting was held on October 2, 2008, regarding the company's application. A written response to comments submitted at that time is available at: www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/FirstEnergy_lakeshore.aspx.

Additional comments on the proposed modification may be presented at the January 21 hearing or submitted in writing to: Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. The public comment period ends January 28, 2010. Following consideration of any additional comments, Ohio EPA will make a final decision on the permit modification.

The proposed discharge permit and related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office in Twinsburg by first calling (330) 963-1200.

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