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**Ohio EPA Drafts General Permit to Protect Air Around Shale Gas Production Sites**  
*Agency Aims for Efficient, Effective Permitting Process for Industry*

With natural gas production from Ohio's Marcellus and Utica shale deposits projected to increase, Ohio EPA is creating a new general permit to make sure the air around production sites is safe while providing business with the most efficient option to get operations up and running.

"A general permit for shale gas production will streamline the process, giving producers the tools they need to comply with Ohio's air pollution regulations," said Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally.

Since most shale gas operations will be similar, Ohio EPA is developing a general permit that will create consistent standards for the sites. This will allow most applicants to apply for and receive a permit in as little as two weeks. Ohio EPA's air division currently offers 47 general permits which serve a variety of business sectors.

The draft general permit includes emission limits, operating restrictions, and monitoring, testing and reporting requirements. It will cover a variety of emissions sources found at most shale gas production sites including internal combustion engines, dehydration systems, truck-loading racks, storage tanks, flares and unpaved roadways. The permit will not cover activities that occur during the drilling and fracturing phase as the resulting air emissions are considered temporary and exempt from air pollution permit regulations.

The draft general permit and qualifying criteria have been reviewed by interested parties to ensure all common shale gas production operations are covered under the permit. Ohio EPA will incorporate comments received before finalizing the draft general permit and making it available for a 30-day public comment period. Ohio EPA will issue another news release to announce the beginning of the public comment period.

The current version of the [draft general permit](#), [qualifying criteria](#) and related information are available [online](#). The general permit is expected to be finalized and made available to applicants this fall.

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