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**Statement from Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally on Today's Filing by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Concerning Patriot Water Treatment and City of Warren's Permit Appeals Before the Environmental Review Appeals Commission**

"Ohio EPA agrees with Patriot and the city of Warren that an error was made by granting these permits, however we have different views as to why they should be invalidated. In addition, there are sound environmental reasons for invalidating these permits. Patriot wants to dispose of more than 100,000 gallons of oil and gas brine per day into the city of Warren sewer system while Ohio EPA believes under Ohio law, this type of disposal is illegal. Options are available to Patriot to properly dispose of brine under Ohio law, but sending brine water to a wastewater treatment facility is not one of them. Under Governor Kasich's administration, Ohio EPA has tried for the past 10 months, and will continue to try, to give Patriot the flexibility necessary to operate their business, but disposing of oil and gas brine into the waters of our state is not going to be tolerated."

- Concentrations of salts in brines from oil and gas drilling can reach up to 300,000 mg/L. By comparison, the concentration of salt in seawater is 35,000 mg/L. Source: USGS
- A typical sewage treatment plant is not designed to treat all of the pollutants in oil and gas flowback water, including Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). The plant relies on mixing flowback water with other wastewater and the capacity of the receiving stream, river or lake to dilute the concentration of these pollutants.
- High levels of TDS in streams, rivers and lakes can impair water quality and adversely impact aquatic life.
- Pennsylvania asked natural gas drillers to stop delivering oil and gas brine to the state's wastewater treatment facilities as a way to cut back on the amount of bromides and salts impacting western Pennsylvania waterways.
- Bromide, in raw drinking water supplies, turns into unsafe compounds called Trihalomethanes when it's combined with chlorine for disinfection at drinking water treatment plants.

[Click here for Director's Determination of Unlawful Permit Issuance and Request for Remand.](#)

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