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Ohio EPA Hosting Public Meeting about Toledo Airport Project

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, to accept comments on water quality impacts associated with a plan to build an industrial park near Toledo Express Airport. The meeting will be held in the airport's conference room, 11013 Airport Highway, Swanton.

The city of Toledo plans to develop 166 acres of land as an industrial park to increase air cargo and distribution related operations associated with the airport. The land is located north of Alternate U.S. 20, east of Air Cargo Parkway and west of Whitehouse-Spencer Road in Swanton Township. The project's preferred design, if approved, would impact 4.59 acres of Category 2 wetlands and 6,436 linear feet of stream. An alternative plan would impact 3.03 acres of wetlands and 4,596 feet of stream. Category 2 wetlands are of moderate to good quality and support moderate wildlife habitat, hydrological or recreational functions.

During the information session, Ohio EPA representatives will answer questions about the proposed project. During the hearing, which follows the information session, the public can submit oral or written comments regarding the application.

The federal Clean Water Act requires anyone discharging dredged or fill material into Ohio waters to obtain a Section 401 water quality certification from Ohio EPA and a Section 404 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 will consider any comments received before making a decision on the application.

The discharge would result in a change from the current water quality conditions of Zaleski Ditch and unnamed tributaries to Zaleski Ditch and associated wetlands within the Wolf Creek watershed in Lucas County. Therefore, Ohio EPA is required to consider technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the proposed project.

Ohio EPA will accept written comments on the application through Jan. 31, 2012. To submit written comments or request to be placed on a mailing list for information, write to: Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.