



**FOR RELEASE:** May 16, 2012  
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## **Ohio EPA to Hold Hearing About Proposed Sugar Creek Bridge Replacement**

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing on May 30, 2012, regarding the water quality impacts of replacing a deficient bridge over South Fork Sugar Creek in Tuscarawas County. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Township Building, 143 7<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Strasburg.

The Tuscarawas County Engineer's Office is proposing the project to maintain road access on Kaylor Road NW (Township Rd 62) which crosses over the creek. Discharges from bridge replacement activities would lower water quality. The applicant's proposed preferred alternative, if approved, would impact approximately 60 feet of stream and 0.3 acres of wetlands. The applicant would be required to offset any impacts resulting from the project. Ohio EPA also will consider other alternatives that result in lesser or no impacts to water quality.

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 Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA received a Section 401 certification application for these projects. The Agency's review is to ensure the project will comply with Ohio's water quality standards. The project may result in a change from current water quality conditions but cannot violate standards that protect human health and the environment. Ohio EPA will review the application and the technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the project before making a decision.

Ohio EPA places a high priority on public involvement and encourages citizens to become involved in the decision-making process. During the May 30 information session, representatives from Ohio EPA will explain the proposed project and answer questions. During the hearing, which immediately follows the information session, the public can submit comments for the record regarding the application. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain additional information that will be considered before Ohio EPA issues or denies the certification.

In addition to oral comments provided at the public meeting, Ohio EPA will accept and equally consider written comments received through June 6, 2012. Written comments can be emailed to [dswcomments@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:dswcomments@epa.state.oh.us) or mailed to Ohio EPA-Division of Surface Water, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Interested parties also may request to be placed on a mailing list for information by writing to the same address. The application and other related materials are available for review online at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/401/applications.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/401/applications.aspx), at Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Lazarus Government Center, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700, Columbus by first calling (614) 644-2001 and Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office at 2195 Front St., Logan by first calling (740) 385-8501.