

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Public Notice
Proposed Rulemaking Governing
Credible Data Program**

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Environmental Protection, under the authority of Sections 6111.51 and 6111.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119, proposes to amend the following rules of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC):

Rule Number	Rule Title
3745-4-02	Definitions.
3745-4-03	Qualified data collectors.
3745-4-04	Level 1 data requirements and reporting.
3745-4-05	Level 2 data requirements and reporting.
3745-4-06	Level 3 data requirements and reporting.

OAC Chapter 3745-4 contains the Credible Data program regulations. This rulemaking includes the review and update of five rules in the chapter. The Agency is considering a number of revisions to improve the quality of data and administrative aspects of the program, including the addition of state universities to the definition of “state environmental agency,” the extension of timeframes for submission of data, changes in the requirements for qualified data collectors (QDCs) and trainers of QDCs, updates to references, and reversion of nomenclature pertaining to primary headwater streams in response to interested party comments.

The Agency invites all interested parties to comment on this rule. The public comment period will run until **October 8, 2020**. A public hearing on this proposed rulemaking will be held to consider public comments in accordance with Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Ohio EPA will be holding a virtual public hearing on the rules at **10:30 a.m. on October 8, 2020**. The meeting will be held exclusively online. During the virtual hearing the public can submit written comments that will be read into the record by the hearing host.

The virtual hearing may be accessed through Ohio EPA’s website at: [**http://epa.ohio.gov/virtual**](http://epa.ohio.gov/virtual)

Written comments may be submitted during the virtual public hearing. In addition, written testimony can be emailed to the attention of Jennie Pugliese, Division of Surface Water at [**dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov**](mailto:dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov). All comments received at the virtual hearing or via email by close of business on **October 8, 2020** will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this rulemaking proposal. Written comments submitted after this date may be considered as time and circumstances permit.

At this time, the proposed rules are only accessible on the DSW webpage at www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/dswrules.aspx. A fact sheet explaining the rule revisions is posted on the website as well. Questions regarding this rule package should be directed to Jared Burson at the Division of Surface Water, at (614) 721-8697.

Please note: Comments for this hearing will only be accepted electronically as Ohio EPA is unable to access physical mail at this time.