



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

Date March 4, 2021

Re Solicitation of Water Quality Data, 2022 Integrated Report
(No action is required on your part - submission of data is voluntary)

To Interested Parties: Stream Monitoring Personnel

From Tiffani Kavalec, Chief
Division of Surface Water

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is asking for chemical, biological and/or fish tissue data you may wish to submit for consideration as the Agency prepares its 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, commonly referred to as the Integrated Report. Both state and federal governments have an interest in utilizing all available data to make informed decisions about managing Ohio's aquatic resources; however, Ohio EPA is only able to use data from a limited number of external sources, including Level 3 certified data collectors and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) discharge permit holders¹.

The 2022 Integrated Report fulfills the State's reporting obligations under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Additional information about the report is available at epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/OhioIntegratedReport.

Credible Data Law

Credible Data rules ([OAC 3745-4-01 to 06](#)), developed in accordance with the 2003 credible data law ([ORC 6111.50 to 6111.56](#)), established a citizen water quality monitoring program for the purpose of collecting credible data under the act and required qualified data collectors to follow plans pertaining to data collection. The law further required that collectors submit a certification that the data were collected in accordance with such a plan.

Additionally, the law established that external data found to be compliant with the specifications for "level 3 credible data," which generally means data from a level 3 qualified data collector, can be used for certain regulatory and reporting purposes, such as the Section 303(d) list of Ohio's impaired waters.

¹ It is unnecessary to resubmit data that have already been submitted to the Division of Surface Water.

According to Ohio EPA's administrative rules, you may meet the qualifications of a level 3 qualified data collector in one or more areas of water quality data and have submitted a study plan to the Agency in the last two years. Therefore, in pursuit of all readily available data for use in the state's reporting documents, the Agency is requesting your voluntary participation by submitting any recent water quality data that you have on Ohio's waters (e.g., lakes, rivers and streams) that you are qualified and authorized to collect.

Data submission deadlines are dependent on the type of data and are as follows:

- **Biological, chemical and fish tissue = April 30, 2021**
- **Bacteria = September 15, 2021**

More information about the specific types of data being requested by Ohio EPA, and **how** to submit such data, may be found at: epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/OhioIntegratedReport.