

Counties: Delaware and Licking

Ohio EPA Permit No. OHI000001

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

**PUBLIC NOTICE
OF THE DRAFT GENERAL NPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE
WASTEWATER FROM SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS
IN CENTRAL OHIO ON AN INTERIM BASIS**

Public Notice No.: 196005

Date of Issue of Public Notice: February 7, 2024

On the basis of staff review and application of standards and regulations, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will issue a draft general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to authorize the discharge of wastewater from sewage treatment systems designed to facilitate rapid growth in central Ohio on an interim basis. The draft permit will be issued as a final action unless the Director revises the draft after consideration of the record of a public hearing or written comments, or upon disapproval by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Any person may submit comments on the draft permit and administrative record.

The Central Ohio Regional Growth Interim General NPDES Permit (Permit No. OHI000001) is the first generation of this general permit. The purpose of issuing this general permit is to provide potential NPDES permit coverage in rapid growth areas of central Ohio that are currently lacking regional wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure.

This general permit authorizes discharges from small sanitary wastewater treatment systems (design flow of up to 75,000 gallons per day) on a temporary basis. A local wastewater management agency may designate unserved parcels within its facility planning area to allow these small systems to be installed and discharge, while the management agency installs treatment capacity and extends collection systems. When a sanitary sewer system tributary to a regional wastewater treatment plant becomes "available and accessible", as determined by the Director of Ohio EPA, permittees must initiate plans to connect to the regional system and eliminate the discharge authorized under this general permit.

Dischargers which meet the eligibility criteria may apply for coverage under this general permit by submitting a Notice of Intent. Permitted facilities must meet technology-based effluent limits associated with Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT), as well as effluent limits for total phosphorus based on antidegradation protection.

This general permit is going to public notice as a degradation under the public notice provisions of the Antidegradation Rule [OAC Rule 3745-1-05(C)(3)]. A public hearing is required under the provisions of 3745-1-05(C)(3)(f). The general permit is proposed for a duration of five years.

The public notice, associated fact sheet and draft general permit may be viewed over the internet at <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/permitting/npdes-general-permits> or by contacting David Brumbaugh at david.brumbaugh@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2138. An Ohio EPA public hearing to accept comments on the draft general permit will be held March 20, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Licking County Library- Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock), located at 320 North Main Street, Johnstown, OH, 43031.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this draft general permit by email to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov or by mail to: Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water-Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 by March 27, 2024. Comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the administrative record. All comments should include "OHI000001" in the subject line for email or next to the Ohio EPA address on the envelope and on each page of mailed comments.