

Public Notice
Public Hearing and Proposed Rulemaking Governing
Water Quality Standards

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Environmental Protection, under the authority of Sections 6111.041 and 6111.12 of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119, proposes to original file and hold a public hearing for the following rules of the Ohio Administrative Code:

Rule #:	Title:
3745-1-50	Wetland definitions.
3745-1-51	Wetland narrative criteria.
3745-1-52	Numeric chemical criteria for wastewater discharges to wetlands.
3745-1-54	Wetland antidegradation.

These rules address water quality standards regulations. The purposes of this rule making are to complete the five year reviews of four rules as required by Ohio Law and make updates as necessitated by House Bill 175.

The public comment period will run until Thursday, May 9, 2024. 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 an in-person and virtual public hearing on the rules on Thursday May 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. The in-person hearing will be at the same time and date and will be located at State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. During the hearing, the public may submit written comments on the record about the proposed rules if participating virtually and verbally if participating in person.

Citizens who want to participate virtually must register in advance for the meeting at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4226340616248983132>

Registration for the in-person hearing is not required. Citizens intending to give testimony at the hearing should notify the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, (614) 644-2160 or by emailing mary.mccarron@epa.ohio.gov. Prior registration will ensure that registrants are heard ahead of those individuals who register at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to five minutes, depending on the number of persons testifying. All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented and to present oral and/or written comments concerning the proposed rule making.

Written testimony should be sent to the attention of Emily Imhoff, Rules Coordinator in the Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus Ohio 43216-1049 or can be emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov. Written comments may also be submitted to the Hearing Officer at the public hearing. Written testimony will receive the same consideration as oral testimony. All testimony received at the hearing or by close of business on May 9, 2024, 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.

Questions regarding this rule package should be directed to Joni Lung, at the Division of Surface Water, at Joni.Lung@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2152.

To receive a copy of the proposed rules, please contact the DSW receptionist at (614) 644-2001. In addition, full copies of all proposed rules are available for review at any Ohio EPA district office and at the Ohio EPA central office. The draft rules are currently available, and the proposed rules will also be accessible on the date of filing April 1, 2024, on the DSW web page at epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/regulations/proposed-rules

To request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, visit <https://epa.ohio.gov/ada>