

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program

FACT SHEET

Regarding a Modification to an NPDES Permit to Discharge to Waters of the State of Ohio for **Fostoria Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**

Public Notice No.: **211921**
Public Notice Date: **5/8/2025**
Comment Period Ends: **6/7/2025**

Ohio EPA Permit No.: **2PD00031*RD**
Application No.: **OH0052744**

Name and Address of Applicant:
City of Fostoria
213 South Main Street
Fostoria, Ohio 44830
Seneca County

Name and Address of Facility where Discharge
Occurs:
Fostoria WWTP
1301 Perrysburg Road
Fostoria, Ohio 44830
Seneca County

Receiving Water: **East Branch Portage River**

Subsequent Stream Network: **South Branch Portage River, Portage River, Lake Erie**

INTRODUCTION

Development of a Fact Sheet for NPDES permits is mandated by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 124.8 and 124.56. This document fulfills the requirements established in those regulations by providing the information necessary to inform the public of actions proposed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), as well as the methods by which the public can participate in the process of finalizing those actions.

This Fact Sheet is prepared in order to document the technical basis and risk management decisions that are considered in the determination of water quality based NPDES Permit effluent limitations. The technical basis for the Fact Sheet may consist of evaluations of promulgated effluent guidelines, existing effluent quality, instream biological, chemical and physical conditions, and the relative risk of alternative effluent limitations. This Fact Sheet details the discretionary decision-making process empowered to the Director by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Ohio Water Pollution Control Law (Ohio Revised Code [ORC] 6111). Decisions to award variances to Water Quality Standards (WQS) or promulgated effluent guidelines for economic or technological reasons will also be justified in the Fact Sheet where necessary.

Antidegradation provisions in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-1 describe the conditions under which water quality may be lowered in surface waters. No antidegradation review was necessary.

PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

The proposed modification is tentative but shall become final on the effective date unless (1) an adjudication hearing is requested, (2) the Director withdraws and revises the proposed modification after consideration of the

record of a public meeting or written comments, or (3) upon disapproval by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Within thirty days of the date of the publication of this notice, any person may submit written comments, a statement as to why the proposed modification should be changed, a request for a public meeting on the proposed modification and/or a request for notice of further actions concerning the modification. All communications timely received will be considered in the final formulation of the modification. If significant public interest is shown a public meeting will be held prior to finalization of the modification.

Within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the proposed modification any officer of an agency of the state or of a political subdivision, acting in his representative capacity or any person aggrieved or adversely affected by issuance of it may request an adjudication hearing by submitting a written objection in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3745.07. Since all other conditions of the permit remain in effect, a hearing may not be requested on any issues other than the proposed modification. If an adjudication hearing is requested, the existing NPDES permit will remain in effect until the hearing is resolved. Following the finalization of the modification by the Director, any person who was a party to an adjudication hearing may appeal to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission.

Requests for public meetings shall be in writing and shall state the action of the Director objected to, the questions to be considered, and the reasons the action is contested. Such requests should be emailed to HClerk@epa.ohio.gov or mailed to:

**Legal Records Section
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049**

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments upon the discharge permit. Comments should be submitted by email to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov (preferred method) or delivered in person or by mail no later than 30 days after the date of this Public Notice. Deliver or mail all comments to:

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Attention: Division of Surface Water
Permits Processing Unit
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049**

The Ohio EPA permit number and Public Notice numbers should appear on each page of any submitted comments. All comments received no later than 30 days after the date of the Public Notice will be considered.

Citizens may conduct file reviews regarding specific companies or sites. Appointments are necessary to conduct file reviews, because requests to review files have increased dramatically in recent years. The first 250 pages copied are free. For requests to copy more than 250 pages, there is a five-cent charge for each page copied. Payment is required by check or money order, made payable to Treasurer State of Ohio.

For additional information about this fact sheet and draft permit modification, contact Malloreay Smith, 419.373.3008, Malloreay.Smith@epa.ohio.gov.

LOCATION OF DISCHARGE/RECEIVING WATER USE CLASSIFICATION

The Fostoria WWTP discharges to East Branch Portage River at River Mile 10.2. Figure 1 shows the approximate location of the facility.

This segment of the East Branch Portage River is described by Ohio EPA River Code: 16-105, Watershed Assessment Unit Code: 0410010-02-02, County: Seneca, Ecoregion: Huron-Erie Lake Plain. The East Branch Portage River is designated for the following uses under Ohio's WQS (OAC 3745-1-23): Warmwater Habitat, Agricultural Water Supply, Industrial Water Supply, and Primary Contact Recreation.

Use designations define the goals and expectations of a waterbody. These goals are set for aquatic life protection, recreation use and water supply use and are defined in the Ohio WQS (OAC 3745-1-07). The use designations for individual waterbodies are listed in rules -08 through -32 of the Ohio WQS. Once the goals are set, numeric WQS are developed to protect these uses. Different uses have different water quality criteria.

Use designations for aquatic life protection include habitats for coldwater fish and macroinvertebrates, warmwater aquatic life and waters with exceptional communities of warmwater organisms. These uses all meet the goals of the federal CWA. Ohio WQS also include aquatic life use designations for waterbodies which cannot meet the CWA goals because of human-caused conditions that cannot be remedied without causing fundamental changes to land use and widespread economic impact. The dredging and clearing of some small streams to support agricultural or urban drainage is the most common of these conditions. These streams are given Modified Warmwater or Limited Resource Water designations.

Recreation uses are defined by the depth of the waterbody and the potential for wading or swimming. Uses are defined for bathing waters, swimming/canoeing (Primary Contact Recreation) and wading only (Secondary Contact which are generally waters too shallow for swimming or canoeing).

Water supply uses are defined by the actual or potential use of the waterbody. Public Water Supply designations apply near existing water intakes so that waters are safe to drink with standard treatment. Most other waters are designated for agricultural water supply and industrial water supply.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Fostoria WWTP was constructed in 1928 and last upgraded in 2021. The average design flow is 8.25 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak hydraulic capacity of 12.7 MGD. The Fostoria WWTP serves the City of Fostoria, portions of the Northwestern Water and Sewer District, Village of New Riegel, Loudon and Jackson Townships in Seneca County and Washington Township in Hancock County for a total of 19,894 customers. The Fostoria WWTP has the following treatment processes (Figure 2):

- Bar Screen
- Influent Pumping
- Scum Removal
- Primary Sedimentation
- Activated Sludge
- Ferric Addition
- Secondary Clarification
- Ultraviolet Disinfection

The Fostoria WWTP has one bypass, which is located at the plant headworks and activates when influent flow rate exceeds 12.7 MGD. Flow is only screened prior to diversion to a 7.5 million gallon storage basin. If the basin overflows, the flow blends with plant effluent at the outfall chamber, bypassing all other treatment. The blended flow is monitored at outfall 001. Bypasses from the storage basin are monitored at outfall 602.

The City of Fostoria has 31 percent separated sewers and 63 percent combined sewers in the collection system. Fostoria WWTP is subject to a U.S. EPA Consent Order for Combined Sewer Overflows. The City submitted a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) on February 29, 2012, with amendments on March 7, 2013, which was implemented through an amendment to the Consent Decree with USEPA and Ohio EPA on June 12, 2013 (Case No. 3:06CV1626 and 3:06CV1627; US District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Western Division). The goal of the LTCP was to eliminate CSOs 005, 006, and 008 while reducing the overflow frequency of CSO 004 to five or less events per typical year. LTCP implementation is to be completed by December 31, 2029. [Negotiations with Ohio EPA and U.S.EPA regarding a revised LTCP are ongoing.](#)

BASIS OF THE MODIFICATION

The City of Fostoria recently completed investigations of the Combined Relief Sewer (CRS), a stormwater sewer system that discharges to Caples-Flack Ditch on the east side of the city. The City identified twenty-two overflow structures from the sanitary collection system to the CRS. Two structures (located in manholes D3-0330 and E3-0757) did not have tributary combined sewers and were therefore determined to be sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The two SSO structures, along with a third overflow at manhole E3-0756, were eliminated in January 2025.

The remaining nineteen relief connections are considered combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and proposed to be added to the NPDES permit. Monitoring for overflow occurrence and volume is proposed for these CSOs. Changes to the permit include:

1. The monitoring requirements are identical to those for currently-permitted CSOs 004, 005, 006, and 008, therefore one final CSO monitoring table under Part I,B(1) is proposed to be included in the permit. This table represents monitoring requirements for all CSOs but data must be reported separately for each respective outfall number.
2. CSOs 010-028 are proposed to be added in Part II, Items B and AC.

Table 1. CSO Stations Proposed to be Added

Outfall Number	Description of Location	Receiving Waters
2PD00031010	Manhole D2-0335 (N 41.168919, W -83.417065)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031011	Manhole D2-0458 (N 41.168612, W -83.418615)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031012	Manhole D2-0473 (N 41.686289, W -83.415717)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031013	Manhole D3-0485 (N 41.168112, W -83.414066)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031014	Manhole E2-0322 (N 41.165415, W -83.417144)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031015	Manhole E2-0343 (N 41.166856, W -83.418536)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031016	Manhole E2-0694 (N 41.165411, W -83.418645)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031017	Manhole E3-0170 (N 41.166857, W -83.408334)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031018	Manhole E3-0740 (N 41.654997, W -83.414064)	Caples-Flack Ditch

Outfall Number	Description of Location	Receiving Waters
2PD00031019	Manhole E3-0753 (N 41.165115, W -83.412755)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031020	Manhole E3-0755 (N 41.16428, W -83.41274)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031021	Manhole E3-0759 (N 41.166792, W -83.411421)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031022	Manhole E3-0760 (N 41.165502, W -83.4114)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031023	Manhole E3-0764 (N 41.161817, W -83.411413)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031024	Manhole E3-0765 (N 41.161811, W -83.412786)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031025	Manhole E3-0792 (N 41.160673, W -83.410998)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031026	Manhole E3-0793 (N 41.160671, W -83.411825)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031027	Manhole E3-0173 (N 41.166864, W -83.41148)	Caples-Flack Ditch
2PD00031028	Manhole E3-0175 (N 41.166885, W -83.405795)	Caples-Flack Ditch

The permittee completed all schedules of compliance in the current permit (2PD00031*QD); Part I,C of the permit and the footnotes in Part I,A have been updated to reflect this.

Figure 1. Location of Fostoria WWTP



Figure 2. Diagram of Wastewater Treatment System

