



City of Defiance Proposed Plan to Reduce Wastewater Discharges – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the proposed plan?

The city of Defiance submitted a proposed plan to reduce the amount of untreated wastewater that is discharged to the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers during heavy rain events. This proposed plan is called a long-term control plan.

Why is this system needed?

The system was originally constructed many years ago to collect both sanitary wastewater and stormwater then take the combined wastewater to the treatment plant, where it is treated and discharged to the Maumee River. Heavy storms can overwhelm the system, causing untreated combined sewage to overflow into the Maumee and Auglaize rivers, referred to as a combined sewer overflow. The city's wastewater discharge permit currently allows Defiance to discharge from 26 combined sewer overflows in the collection system.

How does it protect Ohio waterways?

Combined system overflows are a [major water pollution](#) and public health concern. They can contain bacteria, debris, and other hazardous substances that can be harmful to people, pets and wildlife. They can also cause beach closures, algae growth and reduced oxygen levels in waterways.

Who is addressing this need?

In 2020, the city of Defiance and Ohio EPA signed a legal agreement to reduce the frequency and volume of the combined sewer overflows. The city developed the proposed plan to minimize combined sewer overflows.

What does the proposed plan include?

The proposed plan includes projects at the wastewater treatment plant and in the sewage collection system. The submittal of the proposed plan requires evaluation under the antidegradation rule.

What is an antidegradation rule?

An antidegradation rule is a requirement to maintain and protect the existing water quality in the stream that receives wastewater discharge. Applications with antidegradation obligations require a public hearing to allow for public input before approval of the long-term control plan may be considered. The antidegradation review is the purpose of the public meeting on July 20, 2023.

Public Information Session and Hearing

Ohio EPA will host a public meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2023, 6 p.m. at the Defiance College Cultural Arts Room, located at 701 N. Clinton St., Defiance. The meeting will begin with an information session and will be immediately followed by a public hearing, during which the public can submit comments on the record about the combined sewer overflow control plan.

How can I comment on the proposed plan?

Ohio EPA is accepting public comments about the proposed long-term control plan until July 27. Written comments can be submitted during the hearing; emailed to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov, or mailed to Ohio EPA-DSW, Attn: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43216-1049. Please include the plan name or ID number (DSWPTI 1562583) in the subject line of emails. To request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, visit: epa.ohio.gov/ada.