



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

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## **ODOT – S.R. 7/Chesapeake Bypass 401 Water Quality Certification Application**

### **What is the Chesapeake Bypass Project?**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing to construct Phase 2 of the Chesapeake Bypass (LAW-7-2.17, Project ID 75923) in Lawrence County. The Chesapeake Bypass will relocate approximately nine miles of State Route 7 near the villages of Chesapeake and Proctorville and Rome and Union townships, and through the Brentwood subdivision.

### **What is a 401 Water Quality Certification?**

Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires state agencies to evaluate projects that will result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States to determine whether the discharge will violate the state's water quality standards.

### **Why has ODOT applied for a certification?**

ODOT has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification as the discharges of fill material from the project would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of 18 wetlands and over 20,000 linear feet of streams including Symmes, Bear, Bent, Indian-Guyan, and Little Paddy creeks.

Anyone who wishes to discharge dredged or fill material into the waters of Ohio, regardless of whether on private or public property, must acquire a 401 Water Quality Certification from Ohio EPA.

### **Which division of Ohio EPA manages the 401 Water Quality Certification program?**

Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water manages the 401 Water Quality Certification program.

### **How can I comment on the proposed Water Quality Certification for this project?**

Comments on this application may be emailed to [epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov) or sent in writing to: Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 through March 12, 2024. Ohio EPA's director will consider all comments submitted when deciding whether to issue a certification.

### **Public Information Session and Hearing**

We will be hosting an information session and public hearing to discuss this application on March 5, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Briggs Lawrence County Library – Chesapeake Branch, 11054 County Road 1, Chesapeake, OH, 45619.