

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Public Notice
Proposed Rulemaking Governing
Surface Water Credible Data Program**

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Environmental Protection, under the authority of Section 6111.51 of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, proposes to adopt amendments to the following rules of the Ohio Administrative Code:

Rule #	Rule Title	Action
3745-4-01	Purpose and applicability.	Amend
3745-4-02	Definitions.	Amend
3745-4-03	Qualified data collectors.	Amend
3745-4-04	Level 1 data requirements and reporting.	Amend
3745-4-05	Level 2 data requirements and reporting.	Amend
3745-4-06	Level 3 data requirements and reporting.	Amend

The credible data program classifies surface water monitoring performed by watershed groups, state agencies, schools, local volunteers and other organizations. Ohio EPA uses the data submitted under the program in ways prescribed by State law.

In 2006, Ohio EPA adopted rules that establish criteria for three levels of credible data related to surface water monitoring and assessment. The rules also: define training and experience requirements for qualified data collectors (QDCs); describe sampling protocols and field methods to ensure that the data collection and interpretation are reproducible, scientifically defensible and free from pre-conceived bias; and require Ohio EPA to establish and maintain a computerized database of all credible water quality data submitted to the Agency.

Section 119.032 of the Revised Code requires Ohio EPA to review its rules every five years to determine whether they should be changed. The Agency has reviewed the credible data rules and has identified needed changes.

The public comment period will run until **5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2011**. A public hearing on these proposed rule amendments will be held to consider public comments in accordance with Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. This hearing will be held in **Conference Room B at the Ohio EPA Central Office, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio at 2:00 p.m. on May 24, 2011**. All visitors to Ohio EPA must register at the Security desk in the lobby upon arrival. Please bring photo identification (such as a valid driver's license). For security reasons, visitors are required to wear their badge at all times while in the building. Please

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arrive early to complete these procedures.

To facilitate the scheduling of oral presentations, persons 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. 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 rules.

Written testimony should be sent to the attention of Rule Coordinator at the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus Ohio 43216-1049. 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 **5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2011**, will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this rulemaking. Written comments submitted after this date may be considered as time and circumstances permit.

The proposed rules and a fact sheet explaining the rule revisions are posted on the Ohio EPA website at www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/Home.aspx. The proposed rules are also available on the Register of Ohio website at www.registerofohio.state.oh.us. If you are unable to access the websites or have questions about the proposed rules, contact Jeff Reynolds, Division of Surface Water, at (614) 644-3635 or jeff.reynolds@epa.state.oh.us.