

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System (NPDES) General Permit for
Data Center Dischargers
OHD000001**

Public Hearing of Draft Permit
December 17, 2025



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Note:

Attendees' microphones are muted.
The "raise hand" function is disabled.
Please use Submit Questions to submit questions, comments, or receive technical assistance.



Audience Concerns: Topics Outside the Realm of the Draft General Wastewater Permit

- **Electricity Use and Rates** – your local electric provider, PUCO
- **Water Use and Rates** – your local water provider, PUCO
- **Noise Pollution** – municipality
- **Light Pollution** – municipality
- **Private Drinking Water Wells** – local health departments and Ohio Department of Health
- **Groundwater Withdrawal** – Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- **Tax Abatements** – Ohio Legislature, local municipality
- **Popularity** – Zoning, local municipality
- **Human Health Concerns** – local health department, ODH, PCP
- **Siting/Location** – planning starts well before Ohio EPA permitting review: early planning often involves the local municipality, data center, PUCO, and local electric/water providers



Need From Audience Stakeholders

Comment period extended to **January 16, 2026**

Today's meeting goals:

- Clarifying questions regarding the information provided today on the draft general permit for wastewater.
- Comments concerning the draft general permit for wastewater.



Concerns that are under Ohio EPA's jurisdiction, but NOT the focus of today's meeting:

- Comments related to SPECIFIC data centers under development in Ohio with permit applications to Ohio EPA
- Comments related to air emissions from data centers
- Comments regarding groundwater withdrawals



General Info & Purpose

- New General Permit (OHD000001) was public noticed on October 31, 2025
 - First-time issuance for data center facility operations
 - Proposed for a duration of five years
-
- Ensure these dischargers are in compliance with all applicable state and federal water pollution control laws
 - Consistency in the application of limits and relevant permit terms and conditions statewide
 - Streamlined application process statewide
 - Authorize new discharges and goes through antidegradation procedure



Who can be covered?

- Existing and proposed operations
- Both wastewater and stormwater
 - Wastewater discharges:
 - non-contact cooling waters (once through or recirculating), low volume wastewaters (such as, cooling tower blowdown, boiler blowdown, and air compressor condensate)
 - Stormwater associated with the industrial activities from the site:
 - generators, fuel and chemical storage tanks, outdoor equipment storage, and material loading/unloading areas
- Does **not** cover co-related activities, such as power generation



Eligibility Restrictions



- Location of discharge and receiving stream type
 - Outstanding/High Quality State Waters
 - Lake, other than Lake Erie
 - Sanitary Sewer
 - Groundwater
- Discharge that may cause or contribute to an exceedance
 - Thermal load or temperature
- Cooling water from an intake > 2 MGD
- Other discharges: heat exchanger cleanings



How to obtain coverage?

- Submit Notice of Intent (NOI) application: <https://ebiz.epa.ohio.gov>
- Contents of the NOI to include:
 - Location of the discharge(s)
 - Seasonal flow fluctuations
 - Storm drainage site map
 - Supplementary data (depends on source water)
 - oil and grease, total phosphorus, total filterable residue, total residual chlorine/total residual oxidants, temperature, metals/VOCs
 - List of any additives proposed to be discharged along with safety data sheets (SDS) which need to be reviewed and approved



Discharge Limits & Monitoring Requirements

- Outfall 001: Wastewater and/or stormwater if mixed
 - Weekly monitoring, unless continuous or less frequent
 - Limits based on Ohio's Water Quality Standards
 - pH, total filterable residue (aka total dissolved solids), total residual chlorine, total residual oxidants
- Outfall 002: Stormwater
 - Quarterly sampling
 - Benchmarks: total suspended solids and oil and grease



Reporting Requirements

- Continuous: Temperature and Flow
- Grab: Total Suspended Solids, Oil and Grease, Phosphorus*, Total Residual Oxidants*, Total Residual Chlorine*
- Multiple Grab: pH
- Composite: Total Filterable Residue
- Discharge Monitoring Reports due by the 20th day of the month following the month-of-interest, regardless of whether a discharge occurred

[eCFR :: 40 CFR Part 136 -- Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants](#)

* If expected in discharge, i.e. source water, additive use. Determined during application review.



Special Conditions

- Treatment Additive Approval Process
- Limits Below Quantification
- Stormwater Best Management Practices
 - Spill prevention techniques
 - Good housekeeping practices
 - Equipment maintenance and/or fuel storage tank areas
 - Authorized non-stormwater discharges such as fire hydrant flushing



Special Conditions

- Stormwater Benchmark Sampling
 - 2-year monitoring period
 - Sample collection within first 30 minutes following the preceding event by 72 hours
 - Grab sampling at discrete (pipe) or sheet flow
- Pesticide Application
 - Applied in accordance with product labels
 - Required onsite documentation



Online Comment Portal

- <https://ohioepa.commentinput.com/?id=csDN8pRrg>
- Accepted through **January 16, 2026**

NEXT STEPS

- Ohio EPA considers all relevant comments received during the comment period and from the public hearing
- Issue a response to comments
- Ohio EPA director takes final action



Using GoTo

Public Hearing

Comments due by
5 p.m.

Submit comments using the Submit Questions button during the hearing.

Submit online at

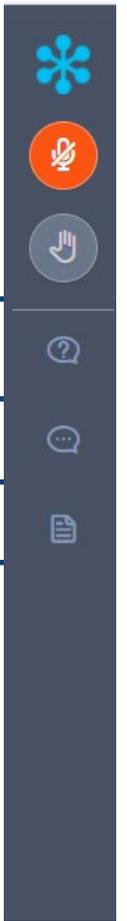
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Thank You

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