

Date of Public Notice: November 21, 2014

Lake County, Ohio

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF 401 APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water (DSW) has received an application for, and has begun to consider whether to issue or deny, a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for a project to replace the existing bridge on Vrooman Road over the Grand River with the construction of a new high level bridge along a new alignment between Seeley Road and State Route 84, and the construction of a new access road, Adams Road, located east of the proposed new bridge alignment. The application was submitted by the Lake County Engineer. The project is located in Leroy and Perry Townships. The Buffalo District Corps of Engineers Public Notice Number for this project is 2013-01234. The Ohio EPA ID Number for this project is 144408.

As required by the Antidegradation Rule, 3745-01-05, of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), three alternatives have been submitted for the project. The applicant's proposed preferred alternative, if approved, would result in impacts to 0.84 acres of Category 3 wetlands, 90 linear feet of the Grand River, an exceptional warmwater habitat stream, 82 linear feet of Borden's Ditch and 99 linear feet of Stream 3, an unnamed tributary to the Grand River. Both Borden's Ditch and Stream 3 are warmwater habitat streams. The applicant's proposed minimal degradation alternative, if approved, would result in impacts to 0.49 acres of Category 3 wetlands, 340 linear feet of the Grand River, and exceptional warmwater habitat stream, 60 linear feet of Borden's Ditch and 99 linear feet of Stream 3, an unnamed tributary to the Grand River. Both Borden's Ditch and Stream 3 are warmwater habitat streams. The applicant's proposed non-degradation alternative, if approved, would have no direct impacts on waters of the state.

Discharges from the activity, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of the Grand River. Ohio EPA will review the application, and decide whether to grant or deny the application, in accordance with OAC Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-32. In accordance with OAC rule 3745-1-05, an antidegradation review of the application will be conducted before deciding whether to allow a lowering of water quality. All three proposed alternatives will be considered during the review process. No exclusions or waivers, as outlined by OAC rule 3745-1-05, apply or may be granted.

Starting November 21, 2014, copies of the application and technical support information may be inspected on Ohio EPA-DSW website:

www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and public hearing relative to issues of lower water quality on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Lake County Department of Utilities (Learning and Business Center), 1981 Blasé Nemeth Road, Painesville, OH 44077. The public hearing will end when all interested parties have had an opportunity to provide testimony related to the project.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented and give written or oral comments on the proposed project. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain additional information that will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to any further action on the application.

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Ohio EPA will continue to accept written comments on the application through the close of business on January 15, 2015. Comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the official record of the hearing. Anyone may submit written comments or requests to be placed on a mailing list for information by writing to: Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.