

# Ohio EPA

## Updates and Priorities

Mark Johnson

Deputy Director Business & Regulatory Affairs,  
Ohio EPA



# Ohio EPA Background

- Created October 23, 1972
- Central Office in Columbus
- Five District Offices

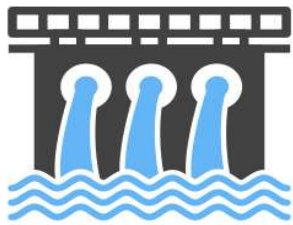


# Major Program Areas

- Division of **Air** Pollution Control (DAPC)
- Division of **Drinking & Ground Waters** (DDAGW)
- Division of **Materials & Waste** Management (DMWM)
- Division of **Surface Water** (DSW)
- Division of Environmental **Response & Revitalization** (DERR)
- Division of Environmental & Financial **Assistance** (DEFA)

# H2Ohio

**\$15,300,000**  
For 28 Critical Water and Sewer Projects



**\$1,250,000**



lead service line and fixture replacement for safer water at Ohio daycare facilities.

**\$3,350,000**



for 18 local health districts to replace household sewage treatment systems.

## Increased Monitoring and Data Collection

installing an additional 20 rain gages to improve weather forecasting and rainfall estimates in northwest Ohio.

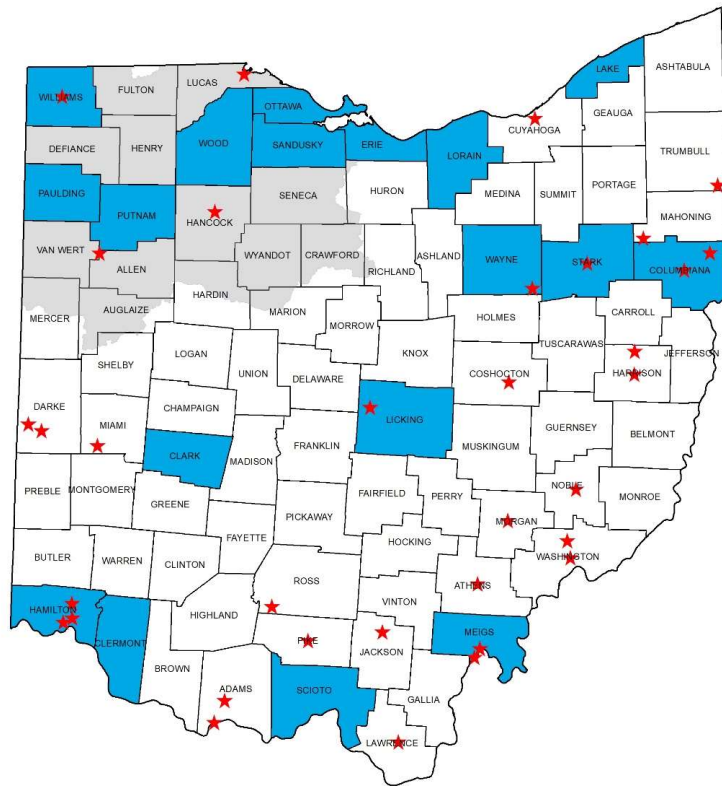


**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Ohio Environmental  
Protection Agency

# Wastewater and Water Infrastructure Funding



- 28 communities
- \$15.3 million total
- Drinking water projects addressing contaminated wells and inadequate water supply
- Wastewater projects serving disadvantaged communities with failing HSTS
- 18 local health districts (LHDs)

# Helping Water Systems Map and Replace Lead Service Lines



**H2Ohio**  
**Lead Service Line Replacement Grants**

City/County	Grant Amount
Delphos - Allen, Van Wert	\$500,000
Lockland - Hamilton	\$500,000
Norwood - Hamilton	\$348,000
Scio - Harrison	\$150,000
Sebring - Mahoning	\$500,000
Hubbard - Trumbull	\$180,000

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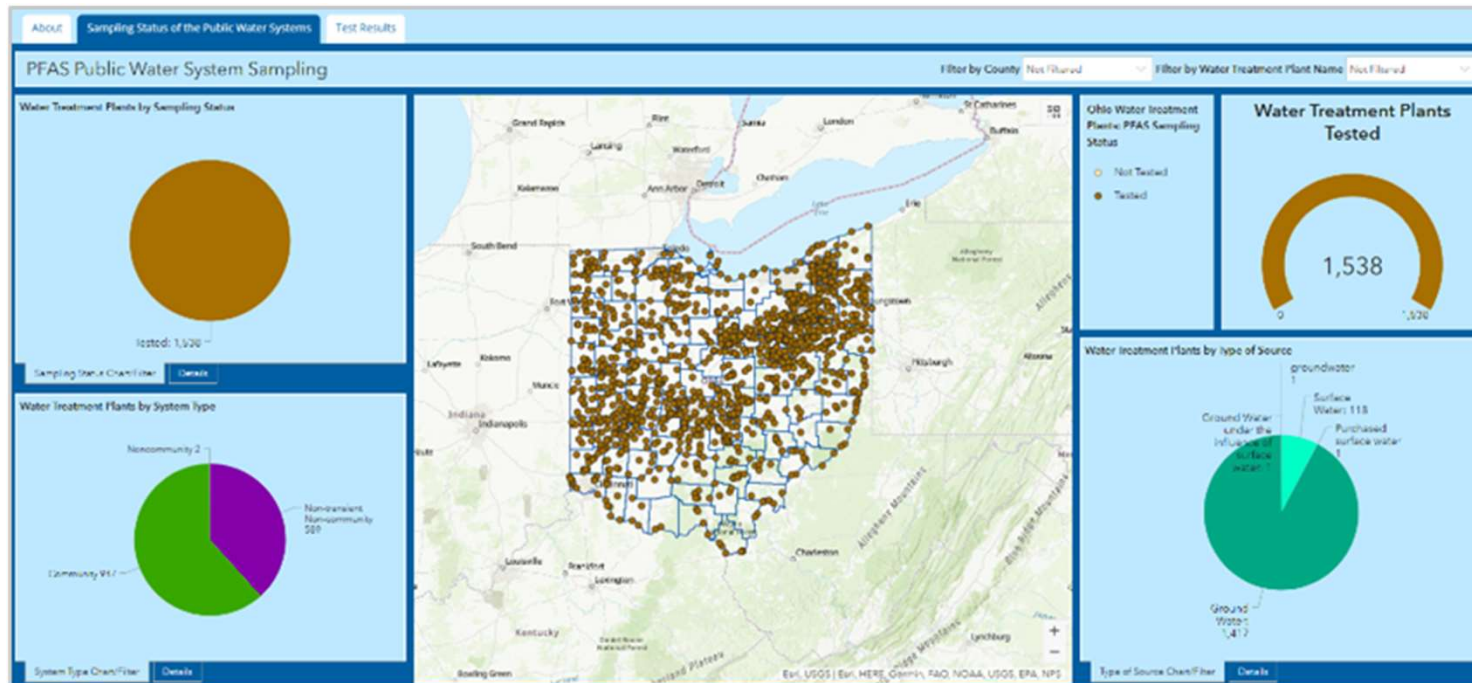
- \$2.1 million for new grant program: up to \$50,000 for public water systems to ID and map LSL
- \$600,000 for the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) & Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) to assist small public water systems with ID and map LSL

# PFAS Testing at Public Water Systems

- Under Ohio's PFAS Action Plan, >1500 public water systems were tested during 2020 for six PFAS compounds.

~94% systems non-detect, 2 systems with HAL exceedance

Sample results and information available at <https://epa.ohio.gov/pfas>



# Agency Dashboard Reporting

- External dashboard reports issued semi-annually to help convey the important work we do and the progress we are making toward environmental improvements and operational efficiency.
- The dashboards include project/initiative highlights, permits/authorizations issued, outreach, funding, emergency response activities and other metrics.
- <https://epa.ohio.gov/monitor-pollution/reports/dashboard-overview>



**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** **Dashboard**  
July-December 2021

### Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure Grant Program

This fall, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced \$250 million to help fund critical water projects in all of Ohio's 88 counties as part of the new Ohio BUILDS (Broadband, Utilities, and Infrastructure for Local Development Success) water infrastructure grant program. The \$250 million will support 183 drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects impacting communities across the state.

"Clean drinking water is part of the foundation for a good quality of life, yet too many communities in Ohio can't reliably provide residents with this basic necessity due to crumbling infrastructure that has been too expensive to fix," said Governor DeWine. "My administration is committed to helping our communities address these important water issues."

The Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program, announced by Governor DeWine in October, was funded by the Ohio General Assembly as part of House Bill 168, sponsored by State Representatives Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Mike ~~Loebik~~ (R-Saxena), with funding that was appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

"Governor DeWine and I have made water quality and protecting our natural resources in Ohio a priority, and it is great to see the legislature prioritizing it as well," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Water quality isn't just about protecting our health, it's also about our quality of life and our economic future."

Since applications for the program opened in late July, the Ohio Department of Development received more than 1,200 grant applications requesting nearly \$1.4 billion in funding.

Governor DeWine created the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program to reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs, such as the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines, and the installation of new water mains. Grants are also funding projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.



MIKE DEWINE  
Governor of Ohio

JON HUSTED  
Lt. Governor of Ohio

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# Customer Connection and Service

- Created online portal for citizens to file environmental complaints  
<https://epa.ohio.gov/help-center/contact-us/submit-a-complaint>
- Online chat feature available through our Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP)  
<https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/contactus>
- Customers can provide feedback through customer service survey link, included in outgoing emails  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ohioepacustomersurvey>

# Permitting and Assistance

## Setting the Stage for Success

- Mark Johnson – Main point of contact for Ohio EPA Customers
- Open Communication (early and often)
- Pre-Application meeting
- Request a pre-application meeting to review your project, the timelines, and the permitting requirements
- Contact your permit writer for updates, ask for periodic phone conferences or meetings
- Expect clear guidance on permit application deficiencies

# Considerations For Your Project

## Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:

- If you have an on-site system to treat your wastewater, can your existing system handle both the increased flow and concentration? Can you expand your current system?
- If not, can you connect to a sanitary system nearby that can handle your discharge?
- Is there existing municipal water or do you need to drill your own water wells?

## On-Site Construction/Existing Conditions:

- Do you have any wetland and/or streams on your property that will be impacted by expanding your building(s)?

## Air Quality Requirements:

- How will the expansion impact your air emission and permit status?
- Are there any non-attainment considerations (for major sources)?

## **If you need a consultant, use one familiar with Ohio EPA's permitting process**

Consultants who have experience with environmental permitting in Ohio can be instrumental in keeping the permit review process moving.

Some aspects of permitting are very complex (for example, air modeling, ORAM scoring, etc.) and require special expertise.

## After You Get Your Permit

- Once you get your final permit, read and make sure you understand it.
- Make sure you comply with the terms and conditions of your final permit.
- If you have questions, call Ohio EPA!



**Hotline: (800)329-7518**

## OCAPP District Contacts

- Central Ohio Contact
  - Kyle Fox, (614) 644-2885
- Northeast Ohio Contacts
  - Tamara Girard, (330) 963-1282
  - Miranda Stockton (330) 963-1250
- Northwest Ohio Contact
  - Tom Cikotte, (419) 373-3020
  - Jeremy Scoles, (419) 373-3095
- Southwest Ohio Contact
  - Maddie Adams, (937) 285-6456
  - Amber Hicks, (937) 285-6439
- Southeast Ohio Contact
  - Ralph Witte, (740) 380-5241

## Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3)

- Recognition program for businesses, organizations, communities and schools
- Achievement in environmental stewardship
- E3
  - Achievement
  - Silver
  - Gold
  - Platinum



**ENCOURAGING  
Environmental  
EXCELLENCE**

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



Protection Agency

# OCAPP and Online Resources

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) <https://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/>

Helps small businesses determine regulations and permits that apply to them. Also help complete paperwork, get resources, etc.

## On-line Tools

Permit Wizard – helps identify needed permits

Answer Place – searchable FAQs, Ask a Question feature



**Thank You**

**Mark Johnson**

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## Biographical Information

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Mark Johnson is the Deputy Director of Business and Regulatory Affairs for Ohio EPA. As deputy director for business and regulatory affairs, Johnson will act as a primary contact for regulated entities to help coordinate permitting activities within the Agency, particularly for complex projects requiring multiple permits.

Johnson joined Ohio EPA in 2012 and has worked in the Division of Surface Water, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, and Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization. Johnson has years of experience in oversight of staff, environmental regulations, environmental enforcement, environmental remediation, Brownfield redevelopment, and ecological restoration.

Johnson graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation Biology.