

## GLOSSARY

**Anti-Degradation Policy** - As part of its water quality standards program, each state must establish an anti-degradation policy consistent with 40 C.F.R. 131.12. Minimum requirements for an anti-degradation policy are (1) existing in-stream water uses must be maintained and protected; (2) where the quality of a water body exceeds that necessary to support propagation of fish and recreation, that quality of water must be maintained and protected unless the state finds, after full public participation, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area where the waters are located (existing uses still must be fully protected); and (3) where high-quality waters constitute an outstanding national resource, such as waters in national or state parks, that water quality shall be maintained and protected. Ohio EPA adopted new anti-degradation regulations in 1996.

**Areawide Planning Agency** - A regional agency designated by a governor as a representative organization which includes but is not limited to, members selected from elected officials of local governments or their designees; and has planning jurisdiction in a designated area.

**Areawide Water Quality Management Plan** - See **Section 208 Plan**

**Assimilative Capacity** - The capacity of a natural body of water to receive: (1) waste waters, without deleterious effects; (2) toxic materials, without damage to aquatic life or humans consuming the water; and (3) biological oxygen demand, within prescribed dissolved oxygen limits.

**Balanced Growth Initiative (BGI)** - A voluntary, incentive-based strategy to protect and restore Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and Ohio's watersheds to assure long-term economic competitiveness, ecological health, and quality of life.

**Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology** - A wastewater treatment method capable of meeting the effluent limitations.

**Best Management Practices (BMP)** - Management practices (such as nutrient management) or structural practices (such as terraces) designed to reduce the quantities of pollutants, such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, and animal wastes washed by rain and snow melt from land into nearby receiving waters, such as lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, estuaries and ground water.

**Best or Better Regional Management Practices (BRMPs)** - A series of recommended regional management practices for the approval, installation, management and evaluation of home sewage treatment systems (HSTS), and with input from OEPA, semi-public sewage disposal systems (SPDSs) as development for this 208 Update by representatives of the health agencies in the seven county Northeast Ohio area.

**Best Science** - Refers to minimum regulatory standards as set by current State and Federal regulations.

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**Bio-criteria** - Water quality monitoring criteria based upon the ambient sampling of resident biological organisms to assess biological integrity. Biological, chemical and physical elements are considered. Other synonyms: in stream biological sampling, biosurveillance, biosurvey.

**Bioengineering** - The design and implementation of stream restoration techniques to enable a stream corridor to recover dynamic equilibrium and function at a self-sustaining level. These techniques include use of natural vegetative materials to stabilize stream banks.

**Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD)** - Organic materials which consume oxygen for biochemical degradation.

**Clean Water 208 Plan Study Area** - The area designated by the governor to be NEFCO's responsibility for 208 water quality management planning within the Ohio River Basin. This includes portions of Portage and Summit County, most of Stark County, and all of Wayne County.

**Clean Water Act (CWA)** - Technically this should be cited as Public Law 92-500. "Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972." The Act established a 1983 goal of fishable and swimmable waters and a 1985 goal of elimination of pollutant discharges into navigable waters. Amendments to the Act were made in 1977, 1981, and 1987.

**Clean Water Plan (CWP)** - The water quality management plan or section 208 plan prepared by NEFCO to protect its region's water quality by addressing issues of planned sewer expansions, better management of home sewage systems, controlling nonpoint source pollution, and the identification and protection of the region's important water resources. The study area of the current update of the CWP is the Ohio River Basin areas of Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties.

**Coldwater Habitat (CWH)** - This use designation is intended for waters which support assemblages of cold water organisms and/or those which are stocked with salmonids with the intent of providing a put-and-take fishery on a year round basis which is further sanctioned by the Ohio DNR, Division of Wildlife; this use designation should not be confused with the Seasonal Salmonid Habitat (SSH) use which applies to the Lake Erie tributaries that support periodic "runs" of salmonids during the spring, summer, and/or fall.

**Combined Sewer Overflow** - Combined sewers are sewers designed to convey both sanitary wastes and storm water runoff in the same pipes; a combined sewer overflow is the location where storm water and municipal wastes are discharged to streams during rainfall events when the increased amount of flow cannot be carried by the sewer system to the waste water treatment plant.

**Conservation Easement** - An easement is an agreement, usually permanent, that transfers one or more of a landowners property rights to another party. In a conservation easement a property

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owner transfers the right to develop or consume that property and its resources to a public or non-profit entity which commits to conserving it in perpetuity.

**Conservation Design** – This is a form of development that concentrates land disturbances in certain areas to limit its impact on natural habitat.

**Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Programs** - These are local programs designed to control the erosion and transport of sediment to streams from development sites by planning for and implementing best management practices.

**Continuing Planning Process (CPP)** - A document prepared by the state in response to requirements of the Clean Water Act whose purpose is to define how the state, in Ohio the Ohio EPA, is implementing Section 303(e) of the CWA, which requires a description of the State process for preparing water quality management plans. The CPP provides a comprehensive overview of CWA program.

**Cooperative Economic Development Agreement (CEDA)** - The legislative authority of one or more municipal corporations, by ordinance or resolution, and the board of township trustees of one or more townships, by resolution, may enter into a cooperative economic development agreement under this section (ORC§701.07).

**Designated Management Agency (DMA)** - See **Management Agency**.

**Designated Planning Agency** - See **Areawide Planning Agency**.

**Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC)** - NEFCO formed the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) in FY1995, as a replacement for the Water Quality Management Committee. The ERTAC was created to provide a forum for local government involvement in water quality management and water quality planning. The Committee reviews and provides input on Clean Water Plan (CWP) work elements and discusses water quality management issues including proposed and final federal and state regulations, permits, findings and orders, and environmental grant programs.

**Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH)** - This use designation is reserved for waters which support “unusual and exceptional” assemblages of aquatic organisms which are characterized by a high diversity of species, particularly those which are highly intolerant and/or rare, threatened, endangered, or special status (i.e. declining species); this use designation represents a protection goal for water resource management efforts dealing with Ohio’s best water resources.

**Facilities Planning Area (FPA)** – This is a discrete geographical planning area of sufficient scope to allow for an analysis of various alternatives for the treatment and disposal of wastewater.

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**Farmland Preservation** - Refers to land use and zoning measures, tax incentives and other public policies designed to facilitate the retention of agricultural land for agricultural production, particular adjoining urban areas.

**Flood Plain** - A watercourse and the areas adjoining a watercourse which periodically will be covered by flood waters.

**Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)** - A treaty between the United States and Canada first established in 1972 which established goals and bi-national institutional arrangements for restoring and preserving the water quality of the Great Lakes.

**Home Sewage Disposal System (HSDS)** - Devices for the treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater, usually from a single household. Now referred to as Home Sewage Treatment System (HSTS).

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**Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling** - Computer-assisted method of predicting the amount and timing of stream flow in a stream channel given different levels of precipitation and alternative land use scenarios.

**Infill Development** - Refers to land use and zoning measures, tax incentives and other public policies designed to facilitate the utilization of undeveloped urban land particularly where public investments in infrastructure exist to support that development.

**Joint Economic Development District (JEDD)** - A fixed territorial division established by neighboring communities to allow establishment of sewer and water facilities in exchange for a sharing of tax revenues.

**Land Conservancy Programs** - A Land Conservancy or Trust is a non-profit organization established to protect land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. This is accomplished through first-hand involvement in land management by: a) Accepting donations of land; b) Accepting donations of conservation easements; c) Purchase of **conservation easements**; d) Purchase of land; and e) Actual on-site monitoring of land to protect its use. Land Conservancies work closely with local government agencies, planning groups, other conservation organizations. They may focus their efforts in a local area, regional area, a particular type of resource, or a specific protection project. Resources protected may be forests, prairie grasslands, marshes, ranch land, scenic vistas, cultural landscapes, historic sites, or hiking trails. They depend on volunteer leadership and support, even if they have a professional staff. They bring together a wide range of people within a community such as: naturalists, planners, farmers, hunters, landowners, community leaders, developers, and other interested parties.

**Lead Agency** - See **Management Agency**

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**Limited Resource Water (LRW)** - This use designation applies to small streams (usually less than a three square mile drainage area) and other water courses which have been irretrievably altered to the extent that no appreciable assemblage of aquatic life can be supported; such waterways generally include small streams in extensively urbanized areas, those which lie in watersheds with extensive drainage modifications, those which completely lack water on a recurring basis (i.e. true ephemeral streams), or other irretrievably altered waterways.

**Linked-Deposit Program** - The objective of this Ohio EPA administered program is to use Water Pollution Control Loan Fund monies (see **State Revolving Loan Fund**) to invest in local lending institutions which are linked to low interest rate loans to individuals who seek to implement approved nonpoint source management practices. Loans are issued directly by local banks to individual landowners to cover the cost of approved practices. The loan rate is reduced by three per cent from market conditions by the lending institution. Ohio EPA, in turn, agrees to accept an interest rate which is three per cent less than market rates interest on its deposit. Many agricultural practices including crop production and animal waste management practices, on-site wastewater treatment system upgrades, and storm water management controls are currently eligible. Ohio EPA continues to expand the list of eligible projects for controlling nonpoint source pollution. The program requires the completion of a watershed management plan that identifies needed nonpoint source controls and provides for targeted implementation. These plans are usually developed by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed in concert with the County Agricultural and Cooperative Extension Agents.

**Management Agency** - An existing or newly created local, regional, or state agency or political subdivision designated by the governor, in consultation with the regional planning agency and affected local governments, as having adequate authority to carry out specific water quality programs and responsibilities.

**Metes and Bounds** - The boundaries or limits of a tract of land established by reference to natural or artificial monuments along it, such as a stream, ditch, fence, or road. This is distinguished from boundaries established by beginning at a fixed starting point and running there from by stated compass course and stated distances.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** - The designation under the federal transportation act of a regional agency whose responsibilities are to develop and administer long range multi-modal transportation plans for a metropolitan area. NOACA is the MPO for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties. AMATS is the MPO for Summit and Portage Counties.

**Modified Warmwater Habitat (MWH)** - This use applies to streams and rivers which have been subjected to extensive, maintained, and essentially permanent hydro modifications such that the biocriteria for the WWH use are not attainable and where the activities have been sanctioned and permitted by state and federal law; the representative aquatic assemblages are generally

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composed of species which are tolerant to low dissolved oxygen, silt, nutrient, enrichment, and poor quality habitat.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit** - Established by the Clean Water Act of 1972, the program imposes effluent limitations and monitoring requirements on point source dischargers, which may include municipal, private and industrial sources. The NPDES permits may contain compliance schedules to ensure construction of facilities needed to achieve the required effluent limitations.

**Nature Works Grants** - State grants administered by ODNR for parks, stream banking and boating facilities. The stream banking program is administered through the Division of Soil and Water for riparian zone protection.

**Nonpoint Source Pollution** - Water pollution that results from a variety of human land use practices, such as agriculture, surface mines, forestry, home wastewater treatment systems, construction sites, and urban yards and roadways. As a result, nonpoint source pollution is controllable by implementing land management practices that protect water quality and economic, social and political interests. These practices are often referred to as best management practices.

**Nonresidential Land Use** - This is a global term used in the Clean Water Plan to refer to land uses that are generally not used as homes. These categories include governmental offices and services, institutions, commercial, industrial, and park lands.

**Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund** - A fund established in 1990 by the Ohio General Assembly by enactment of Substitute House Bill 804. The intended use of these funds is to award grants that will help the State of Ohio protect and enhance Lake Erie through the support of research, monitoring, demonstration and education projects.

**Ohio Water Quality Standards (Ohio WQS)** - The rules set forth in Chapter 3745-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code establish stream use designations and water quality criteria (scientifically derived ambient concentrations developed by the state) that are protective of the surface waters of the state.

**Part 503 Sewage Sludge Regulations** - Federal regulations that focus on the ultimate use or disposal of sewage sludge generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works, addressing such practices as the land application, the distribution and marketing of sludge by products, sludge-only incinerators, and the disposal of sludge in sludge-only landfills.

**Phase I of the NPDES Storm Water Permits Program** - Rules promulgated by USEPA, which required municipalities or jurisdictions in urban areas with populations of 100,000 or more served by separate storm water sewers, to implement a series of storm water management programs to control polluted runoff from separate storm sewer systems.

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**Phase II of the NPDES Storm Water Permits Program** - Rules promulgated by USEPA which require municipalities in urban areas with populations of 50,000 and above, areas with populations of 1,000 per square mile, and municipalities outside urban areas with populations greater than 10,000, to implement a series of storm water management programs to control polluted runoff from separate storm sewer systems.

**Point Source Pollution** - Any discernable, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or can be discharged.

**Primary Designated Management Agency (Primary DMA)** - A county or municipality that owns and operates a central wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and at a minimum has the capacity to comply with Section 208 of the CWA and to refuse wastewater from any municipality or subdivision thereof which does not comply with the provision of the Clean Water Plan.

**Private Wastewater Treatment System (PWTS)** – A wastewater treatment system other than a home sewage treatment system (HSTS) or a semi-public sewage disposal system (SPSDS) which includes privately owned sanitary wastes only systems treating more than 25,000 gallons per day and privately owned wastes treatment system. This does not include industrial waste pretreatment systems that will discharge to a publicly owned central sewer system (POTW).

**Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW)** - Publicly-owned facilities to treat sanitary and combined sewerage in accordance with requirements of an NPDES permit.

**Regionally Important Water Resources** - Water resources for which sufficient information exists to allow for the development of management recommendations and strategies by this plan. These include surface drinking water supplies, groundwater drinking supplies, and unique regional waters.

**Riparian Buffer** - A riparian buffer refers to a “green corridor” along the banks of a river or stream that separates water bodies from developed land uses and is intended to provide protection from the harmful impacts of such uses on water quality.

**Riparian Zone** - An ecological term that refers to the habitat adjacent to a river or stream that functions to support and enhance aquatic and terrestrial communities who are dependent on the river or stream.

**Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)** - A sanitary sewer overflow is the location where municipal wastes are discharged to streams when the increased amount of flow cannot be carried by the sanitary sewer system to the wastewater treatment plant or where collection system failures occur.

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**Satellite Jurisdiction** - An autonomous planning area which lies physically beyond the political jurisdiction boundaries of the DMA responsible for wastewater planning. It may be represented by an incorporated political unit e.g. city or village or sewer district.

**Secondary Designated Management Agency (Secondary DMA)** - A DMA or 6119/9117 township and sewer districts that uses a primary DMA's WWTP and has responsibility for building, operating and maintaining of sewers under their jurisdiction, facilities planning and plan amendments requests within the boundaries of its sewer district; subject to oversight and agreement with a primary DMA.

**Section 201** - Section 201 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (a.k.a. Clean Water Act) provided for waste treatment management plans and practices for the application of the best practicable waste treatment technology before discharge into receiving waters, including reclaiming and recycling of water, and confined disposal of pollutants. To the extent possible, waste treatment management was to be done on an areawide basis.

**Section 208 Plan** - Section 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that water quality management plans (WQMP) be prepared by states and designated areawide agencies. While Ohio EPA is the lead agency in administering the CWA, six areawide water quality planning agencies, including NEFCO, are designated by the state to develop WQMPs for their respective regions. The focus of the WQMP is to plan for the management of future water quality by local public jurisdictions and agencies.

**Section 208 Plan Consistency Review** – This is a procedure whereby plans for future wastewater treatment facilities are reviewed to be consistent with the areawide water quality management plan. Potential issues include facilities planning area boundary coordination and population projections employed.

**Section 401 Certification** - A state (Ohio EPA) certification required by the Clean Water Act for any activity which discharges dredged or fill materials into the waters, including wetlands, of the United States whereby the State identifies that water quality standards will not be violated by the subject activity. A Section 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is also required for these activities. If the Ohio EPA does not issue a 401 permit, the Corps may not issue a 404 permit. There are a number of activities involving “de minimis” (negligible) discharges which are covered by general permits.

**Section 404 Permit** - See “Section 401 Certification”.

**Section 319 Nonpoint Source Demonstration Grants** - The CWA requires each state to develop a nonpoint source state management program, which includes identification of best management practices; and provide technical assistance to the public and other agencies. A limited amount of federal funding is available for nonpoint source pollution control projects. Applications are first reviewed by Ohio EPA and then forwarded to U.S. EPA for final review and approval.

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**Section 305(b) Report** - A biennial water quality report is required of each state by the CWA. The report, which is also referred to as the Water Resource Inventory, evaluates the water quality of all navigable waters of the state, and identifies which water bodies are meeting use attainments as defined by the state's water quality standards. The 305(b) report is a summary of monitoring information collected from technical support documents and other monitoring information.

**Semi-Public Sewage Disposal System (SPSDS)** - A discharge disposal system which treats the sanitary sewage discharged from publicly and privately owned buildings or places of assemblage, entertainment, recreation, education, correction, hospitalization, housing, or employment, but does not include a disposal system which treats sewage in amounts of more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons per day; a disposal system for the treatment of sewage from single-family, two-family, or three-family dwellings; or a disposal system for the treatment of industrial waste.

**Sentinel species** - Species of animal, bird or reptile used as an ecosystem indicator of toxic effects.

**Septage Disposal Plan** - A comprehensive plan for the final disposal of septage which is the waste material pumped from individual home sewage disposal systems.

**Sewershed** - The area drained by sewers.

**Small Flow On-Site Treatment System** - A wastewater treatment system, other than a household sewage treatment system, that treats not more than one thousand gallons of sewage per day and that does not require a national discharge elimination permit issued under section 6111.03 of the Revised Code or an injection well or operating permit issued under section 6111.043 of the Revised Code.

**State Revolving Fund Loan** - This is a program established by the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act which provides for low interest loans for improvements to publicly owned wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities. A portion of these loans are also available to support certain best management practices for control of nonpoint sources of pollution.

**Storm Water Runoff** - Includes snow melt runoff, water runoff from storms and surface runoff and drainage.

**Storm Water Management Ordinances** - These are local programs designed to control the quantity and rate of runoff from developed or developing sites.

**Stream-banking Programs** - A method of preserving stream banks through the implementation of a strategy of targeted land acquisition and conservation easements.

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**Stream Morphology** - Physical characteristics of a stream channel including size, shape, flow patterns, and the like.

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)** - A TMDL is the amount of pollutant that can be assimilated by a water body without a violation of water quality standards, and includes wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and a margin of safety.

**Unique Regional Waters** - A term (created by NEFCO) that refers to a series of stream segments that have unique or special characteristics, and are ecologically or recreationally significant. These can include wild, scenic, and recreational rivers, publicly-owned lakes and reservoirs, and surface waters that lie in National, State, or metropolitan park systems, wetlands, wildlife refuge areas, and preserves.

**Urban Stream Restoration Plan** - A term developed for the NOACA and NEFCO 208 plans that refers to a strategy for developing community goals and implementing programs in heavily impacted urban streams determined by the 208 planning process to warrant additional protective measures to be implemented by local governments.

**Use Attainability Analysis** - A “Use Attainability Analysis” considers all pertinent biological, chemical, and physical attributes of a water body to determine the uses that can be reasonably attained by that body when all applicable laws and regulations are met by entities that discharge pollutants to the body. See **Water Quality Use Designations**.

**Warmwater Habitat (WWH)** - This use designation defines the “typical” warmwater assemblage of aquatic organisms for Ohio rivers and streams; this use designation represents the principal restoration target for the majority of water resource management efforts in Ohio.

**Wastewater Treatment Facility** - Facilities designed to remove disease causing organisms and other pollutants from wastewater before its release back to the environment.

**Water Quality Management Plan** - See **Section 208 Plan**.

**Water Quality Use Designations** - The designation of surface waters and specification of a set of water quality standards for the purpose of protecting their use. Generally, water use classification includes: public water supply; recreation; warm water habitat; propagation of fish and other aquatic life; agricultural use and industrial use. Use designations are defined in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-1-07. Water bodies are assigned use designations in OAC rules 3745-1-08 to 3745-1-32. Those rules specifically list water bodies and their assigned use designations that have been determined as appropriate after being analyzed by Ohio EPA according to approved methods.

**Watershed** - The area drained by a river or stream.

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**Watershed Action Plan (WAP)** - A watershed action plan that meets all criteria of Ohio's Guide to Developing Local Watershed Action Plans in Ohio including the Appendix 8 Update, the most recent U.S. EPA Section 319 Planning Guidance, and this conclusion has been stated in writing by the chiefs of the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water and the ODNR Division of Soil & Water.

**Watershed Stewardship Programs** - Refers to programs aimed at building homeowner and community involvement in stream monitoring, protection and/or restoration activities.

**Watershed Trading** - strategy of shifting pollution reduction responsibilities between contributing sources of pollution within a watershed.

**Wellhead Protection** - A program to prevent contamination of the ground water used for public drinking water. A wellhead protection plan consists of three steps: (1) determining the area contributing water to a public well or wellfield; (2) inventorying the potential pollution sources in the wellhead protection area; and (3) developing a management strategy to prevent, detect, and remediate ground water contamination. This is now referred to by the Ohio EPA and USEPA as the Source Water Assessment and Protection program.

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