

# Chapter 3

## Wastewater Management Facilities Planning

**This chapter updates wastewater management facilities planning areas (FPA) for the NEFCO 208 Plan and identifies local units of government to be designated as management agencies (DMA) under Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act and included under the Clean Water Plan (CWP) for wastewater management planning. It identifies wastewater management options and prescriptions within each facilities planning area that were developed by the DMA with the advice of affected local units of government. These options represent current judgments about where sewers will be extended and where areas will remain unsewered over the course of the next twenty years.**

Once the CWP is adopted, certified and approved, these DMAs, FPAs and wastewater management options and prescriptions become part of the region's CWP. The Ohio EPA's decisions concerning certain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, permits to install (PTI) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans for wastewater treatment must not conflict with the CWP.

This chapter presents policies to enhance governing areawide coordination of local wastewater management planning. These policies address:

- (1) DMAs and their FPA boundaries for wastewater management planning; (policy 3-1)
- (2) modifications to FPA boundaries; (policy 3-2)
- (3) development of local wastewater management options and prescriptions; (policy 3-3)
- (4) Ohio EPA and USEPA 208 Plan consistency actions; (policy 3-4)
- (5) utilization of areawide population projections; (policy 3-5)
- (6) modifications to DMAs; and (policy 3-6)
- (7) nomination of new DMAs; (policy 3-7)

The chapter also includes recommendations for (a) conforming the land use plans of local units of government to the CWP, and (b) recognizing the use of Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) and Cooperative Economic Development Agreement (CEDA) procedures for the extension of wastewater services to currently unsewered areas.

### **I. Introduction**

Water quality planning requirements are specified in Sections 205(j), 208 and 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Municipal waste treatment is among the nine elements to be included or referenced as part of the CWA elements.<sup>1</sup> It is among the six elements in which areawide planning agencies are actively involved in Ohio.

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<sup>1</sup>40CFR130.6(c)(3).

In response to a court challenge, Ohio EPA has established a standard process for the review of NPDES permit and Permit to Install (PTI) applications statewide. (In areas of the state outside of the jurisdiction of areawide planning agencies, the Ohio EPA has begun the process of updating 208 Plans. In designated areas of the state, the Ohio EPA has requested that areawide agencies update the corresponding areawide 208 Plan element for municipal waste treatment.) The Ohio EPA addresses the full scope of Ohio's Water Quality Management planning in its Continuing Planning Process (CPP) document.<sup>2</sup>

One of the objectives of Section 208 of the Clean Water Act was to establish integrated and coordinated facility planning for wastewater management. In order to accomplish this objective in urban areas where competition for service areas was expected to be a concern, the Clean Water Act called for the designation of areawide planning agencies to assist in the resolution of such conflicts as they might arise.

~~NOACA has been designated by the Governor under Section 208 as the Areawide planning agency for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties. NEFCO has been designated by the Governor as the Areawide planning agency for Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties. NEFCO and NOACA consult on planning matters in the watersheds that are shared by parts of both planning areas. The two major Lake Erie watersheds in this shared category are the Cuyahoga River and the Chagrin River, but also includes portions of the Rocky River and Grand River in Summit and Portage Counties respectively.~~

## **DESIGNATED MANAGEMENT AGENCIES UNDER THE ORIGINAL 208 PLANS**

**In** 1981, the NEFCO 208 CWP established the basis for evaluating all sewerage plans that have been proposed over the twenty years since the 208 Plan was adopted. For each area where sewers were being planned, a single local management agency was designated for all facility planning. This agency became a DMA for wastewater management planning under this element. DMAs include municipalities, counties, and sanitary sewer districts authorized under Ohio law to perform these functions. As part of the DMA designation process, the owners/operators of Publicly-Owned Wastewater Treatment Works (POTWs) were designated by the 208 Plan to have the authority for sewer-related planning in clearly demarcated boundaries. These boundaries were commonly referred to as 201 boundaries (after Section 201 of the Clean Water Act) and are now known as FPAs. For each FPA delineated, the local wastewater management agency became the primary designee (the DMA) for sewer planning in the established FPA into the future. The 1981 CWP also recognized Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties as DMAs for wastewater planning for the unincorporated portions of their respective counties that lie inside and outside of established FPAs. In cases where the unincorporated area lies within an established FPA, county wastewater planning was incorporated into the lead DMA's facilities plan. A DMA of either type was recognized as a lead agency within its FPA by the 208 Plan and was charged with the responsibility of identifying plans to solve existing wastewater-related problems and to accommodate projected growth over a twenty-year period.

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<sup>2</sup>Ohio EPA, "Continuing Planning Process." 1998.

The DMA designation process prevented two separate treatment facilities and/or management agencies from planning for the same area. This was important because cost/benefit and feasibility analyses hinged on the projected service demand. The sizing of sewer lines and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) had to reflect existing and projected populations. If POTWs competed for the same customers, the duplication of service would be cost prohibitive, could result in plant operation problems; system design, planning, and jurisdictional authority conflicts. All FPA boundaries that were certified in the 1981 Plan specified the entity that is the DMA in every area where sanitary sewers were in place or were being considered.

Many FPAs encompass land areas that lie outside of the political jurisdiction boundaries of the DMA responsible for wastewater planning. The CWP recognizes that service agreements can exist between a POTW owner/operator and the adjacent units of government serviced by that POTW. Those agreements can specify which wastewater planning functions are to be assumed by the Secondary DMAs. Each satellite jurisdiction named in an agreement is recognized as a DMA for wastewater management planning in accordance with the service agreement with the POTW owner/operator.

#### **FACILITIES PLANNING AREA STATUS UNDER THE ORIGINAL 208 PLANS**

The rationale for the delineation of the FPA boundaries in the original NEFCO Plan varied. Some communities limited their planning area to their existing jurisdictional authority. Others extended their planning area boundaries outside of their jurisdictional boundaries based on the sewershed concept (areas that drain by gravity to a treatment works or could be handled efficiently with the limited use of pump stations). In some areas, the County Sanitary Engineer assumed the facilities planning role for all or much of a county.

During the time that the 208 Plan was developed, there was little conflict in the establishment of FPA boundaries. Conflicts that did arise were resolved to the satisfaction of all parties and incorporated into the Plan. Before the Ohio EPA accepted any FPA boundary definition, affected municipalities and counties had to agree on the boundary. Because of this, facilities planning proceeded in a timely manner at most of the region's POTWs.

~~Subsequent to the adoption of the 1981 208 Plan, disputes between POTWs (Designated Management Agencies) started to arise. As time passed and plans began to be implemented, numerous small coordination issues arose. A major one involved the extension of interceptor lines proposed by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District into areas which were currently being served by municipally owned POTWs. Locally another dispute arose when Summit County sent flows from the County's Hudson Plant to Fish Creek (WWTP) by pumping rather than via gravity through the Mud Brook Interceptor to the Akron WWTP. A conflict resolution process established under the auspices of the region's 208 Plans resolved each of these conflicts. This process helped to provide for the orderly implementation of facilities planning and sanitary sewer infrastructure construction under the 208 Plan.~~

Planning for future wastewater treatment needs is an inexact science. Assumptions are made relative to the size and extent of population growth. During the engineering phase of some projects, situations sometimes arise to render previously preferred alternatives impractical. With time, local conditions can change resulting in modifications to previously preferred alternatives. New treatment works continue to be proposed to meet growth demands.

Most existing FPAs were established **created** as part of the **1970s** Construction Grants Program established under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act to help fund sewage treatment improvements. For the 208 Plan, an FPA was typically subdivided into three general categories. These include (a) areas that are already served with sanitary sewers; (b) areas that would most likely be sewered during the next 20 years; and (c) areas where sewers were not likely to be extended for at least 20 years. The decision as to the classification of any given area was made by the DMA in accordance with planning guidelines established by USEPA. The charge to each DMA was to develop a plan to provide for adequate wastewater treatment over the 20-year period. They had to project growth within their planning area and identify options for wastewater management. Many communities were able to take advantage of federal funds made available for this purpose. Other communities were unable to meet the eligibility match requirements for these grants and developed general sewerage plans in consultation with the Ohio EPA.

No matter what facilities planning actions were taken in the past, there had to be a rationale for each decision made by DMAs. The Ohio EPA had to concur with each of these decisions, at least as to the effects that they would have on receiving streams. DMAs had to develop and implement plans that would satisfactorily solve pollution problems associated within their sewer district. Expansion of a service area beyond that identified in the facilities plan was allowed as long as they met all applicable water quality standards and had received the consent of affected communities.

## **CONSISTENCY REVIEWS UNDER THE ORIGINAL 208 PLANS**

Under the 208 Plan, a Consistency Review was required whenever an application was made by a DMA for federal grants or loans under the Clean Water Act. This application could be to increase an existing discharge amount, to extend new sewer lines into a previously unsewered area, or to install an entirely new discharge. As the Areawide Planning Agency, NEFCO is responsible for evaluating **Plan** consistency in its respective area. The following procedures were followed in determining consistency within the 208 Plan.

All proposed projects that were seeking funding assistance were reviewed for consistency with regional population projections. This was done for two reasons. The Clean Water Act provides financial assistance only to those projects which serve existing and projected populations. The Act does not support the building of excess capacity as a means to attract development that would have occurred elsewhere. Such a move could undermine the efficiency or cost effectiveness of other treatment works. The regional review of population figures used to size the proposed facility also identified optimistically high projections that

could lead to the inability of a community (i.e. *local unit of government*) or Designated Management Agency to financially support its POTW if its projections are not realized.

As time passed, the population projections contained in the original Plans became outdated. A plan update was accomplished in 1984 to update the population projections that were recalculated following the release of the 1980 census. NEFCO currently utilizes population projections based on the 1990 census as reference for consistency review purposes. After the Year 2000 census is completed, and new county projections are prepared by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Strategic Research, new local population projections will be developed for this purpose.

NEFCO used county projection totals produced by the Ohio Department of Development and with the assistance of the two metropolitan transportation organizations (AMATS and SCATS) and the Wayne County Planning Department, NEFCO produced local government population projections which used the 1990 and 2000 Census of Population respectively for the Plan updates.

NEFCO reviewed an applicant's population projections for consistency with the approved NEFCO areawide projections. If they were not consistent, the applicant was notified of the discrepancy and the Ohio EPA was notified of the differences. The Ohio EPA then worked with the community in question to examine the potential consequences if a community's projections are not realized. The Ohio EPA then ultimately determined whether the project should proceed as designed.

NEFCO also reviewed the adequacy of the project's selected treatment alternative. Often the old 201 plans contained a listing and analysis of various approaches to wastewater treatment for an area, followed by a recommended option. NEFCO incorporated a review of this recommendation in its consistency review, which it incorporates in its consistency review.

Under the original 208 Plan, any action proposed by the DMA was deemed consistent with the plan as long as it; a) met Ohio EPA's technical requirements; b) consisted solely of actions that were within the existing FPA boundary; c) conformed to regional population projections, and d) adequately treated wastewater. If a DMA planned to extend service outside of its established FPA boundary, consistency was not attained until all affected parties agreed to the need for the change. This meant that Ohio EPA had to agree that the proposal represented a viable alternative for providing adequate waste treatment in an efficient manner. If a proposal infringed into the FPA of an adjacent DMA, the applicant had to secure the permission of the neighboring DMA. If the applicant proposed to extend service into any area where no facility planning had yet taken place, the proposal was deemed consistent with the 208 Plan as long as the local community officials affected by the extension agreed to it and the Ohio EPA approved it.

While most of these projections and allocations incorporated into the original 208 Plans proved to be accurate, some areas did develop faster or slower than expected. During the time that has elapsed since the original facility plans were prepared, some elements were

~~implemented as designed. Other elements were implemented with changes. A few elements were not implemented at all. In some circumstances, plans were made and implemented that were not considered in the original 208 Plan. This CWP update makes the FPA boundaries current and provides an orderly process for future revisions.~~

## **II. Updating the Designation of Management Agencies, Facilities Planning Areas, and Consistency Review Policies**

### **Definition of Primary (lead) DMA and Secondary DMA**

Governmental entities within Facilities Planning Areas; which have the right to plan for wastewater treatment and conveyance are referred to as ~~designated~~ management agencies (DMAs).

For the purposes of this Clean Water Plan, typically for each Facilities Planning Area, a single governmental entity is the “Primary ~~Designated~~ Management Agency,” which treats the wastes (wastewater). A **Primary DMA** must have the capacity to comply with the list below as well as **to refuse to receive any wastes (wastewater) from any municipality, or subdivision thereof, which does not comply with any provision of the Clean Water Plan.**

Typically, the **Primary DMA** is the county or municipality that owns and operates the central wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). In cases where a DMA uses the services of a primary DMA’s WWTP or where a 6119/96117 township and county sewer district exists, these entities will be considered as **Secondary DMAs**, responsible for building, operating, and maintaining the sewers under their jurisdiction. The **Secondary DMA** is the county, municipality, or political entity that builds, operates, and maintains the sewers under their jurisdiction. The **Secondary DMA** has local responsibility for facilities planning and requesting Plan Amendments as necessary within the boundaries of its sewer district (subject to a sewer agreement(s) with the Primary DMA). There may be more than one Secondary DMA within each FPA using the WWTP of a Primary DMA.

The following is provided as background information on ~~designated~~ management agencies.

A Primary DMA must have adequate authority to (text shown in bold taken from Section 208 of the Clean Water Act):

1. provide service to its area;
2. **carry out its appropriate portion of the areawide waste (wastewater) treatment management plan;**
3. **accept and utilize grants, or other funds from any source, for wastewater treatment management and/or nonpoint source control purposes;**
4. **raise revenue, including the assessment of waste (wastewater) treatment charges** or other necessary funding, to implement its assigned portion of the Plan. Needed revenues may include staff funding, or for DMAs that own or operate POTWs, assessments of wastewater treatment charges;

5. cooperate with and assist the NEFCO Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) in the performance of its Plan responsibilities;
6. **accept for treatment industrial wastes** (wastewater);
7. **manage effectively waste** (wastewater) **treatment works and related facilities serving such an area in conformance with the Plan** and effectively manage POTW and related point and/or nonpoint source facilities and practices in conformance with the Plan;
8. **directly or by contract, to design and construct new works, and operate and maintain new and existing works as required by the Plan;**
9. **incur short- and long-term indebtedness;**
10. **assure in implementation of an areawide waste** (wastewater) **treatment management plan that each participating community pays its proportionate share of treatment costs.**

For this plan update, NEFCO and responsible management agencies (MAs) undertook a comprehensive review of their respective DMAs and FPAs in the original 208 Plan, and to update them DMAs and FPAs to reflect current conditions. The FPAs maps from the last approved update (2011) were sent to the Primary Management Agencies who were asked to consult with Secondary MAs as well as with local governments for input in updating the maps. MAs were asked to identify in their respective FPA(s) the following: This was done by circulating maps of FPAs from the 208 Plans with a request that the Primary and Secondary DMAs consult with affected units of government to update the maps. Treatment plants constructed after the original planning period were also identified and their lead agencies were contacted. DMAs were asked to identify in their respective FPA the following:

- (1) areas currently served with sanitary sewers; (yellow)
- (2) areas expected to be served with sanitary sewers within the next twenty years; (orange)
- (3) areas that will be served by a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) or by home sewage treatment systems (HSTSs) and semi-public sewage disposal systems (SPSDSs)/private wastewater treatment systems (PWTS); (green)
- (4) areas that will be served by home sewage and semi-public sewage disposal systems nondischarging (including underground injection or infiltration basins) HSTSs (HSTSs), PWTS, and SPDSs (cream); and
- (5) areas without a wastewater treatment planning prescription. (white)

The results of this effort were then used to update county facilities planning maps and circulated for review and comment to affected local and county units of government. This process generated ongoing planning discussions in each of the counties involved with the plan update.

This update process also identified which local or county units of government currently have responsibilities for wastewater facilities planning. These units of government, shown in Table 3-1, have management responsibilities for facilities planning associated with

wastewater treatment facilities that they own. The local units of government or agencies in Table 3-1 will be reaffirmed DMAs for their FPAs in this plan once it has been certified and approved. DMAs include municipalities, counties, and sanitary sewer districts authorized under Ohio law to perform these functions.

Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties are designated as the wastewater management planning agency for a) the service areas of existing sewage treatment plants that they own or operate and b) all unincorporated areas of their respective county and, c) all incorporated areas where sanitary sewer agreements with their respective county are in place. The geographical extent of the FPAs associated with the above listed DMAs and FPAs are shown in Appendix 3-1.

Appendices 3-2 to 3-5~~2~~ show 201~~8~~ facilities planning areas or county-wide sewer districts within Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties. Also included are the wastewater planning options, prescriptions and current information developed by each DMA with input from affected local units of government within each Facilities Planning Area in the NEFCO area. The boundaries, however, shown in these figures are generalized as discussed in Policy 3.1 below.

### **RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR DETERMINING CONSISTENCY WITH THE CWP**

This section presents recommended policies for governing changes to DMAs and FPAs and procedures for making wastewater management plans consistent with the CWP. These policies are:

- 3-1 DMAs and their Current FPA Boundaries for Wastewater Management Planning;
- 3-2 Endorsements of Modifications to FPA Boundaries;
- 3-3 Development of Local Wastewater Management options and prescriptions;
- 3-4 208 Plan Consistency Actions for Ohio EPA and USEPA;
- 3-5 Utilization of Areawide Population Projections;
- 3-6 a&b Updating and/or Revising the Facilities Planning Area of ~~Designated~~ Management Agencies
- 3-7 Nomination of New ~~Designated~~ Management Agencies (DMAs).

#### **Policy 3-1: DMAs and Current FPA Boundaries**

**With the adoption of 2003, 2005, and 2011, and 2020 Plan updates by the NEFCO General Policy Board, the local units of government or agencies identified in Table 3-1 are confirmed as the DMAs for wastewater management planning within the FPAs set forth in Appendices 3-2 to 3-5~~2~~.**

This CWP update accepts FPA boundary decisions that were formally or informally approved by the Ohio EPA in the past. ~~Considerable confusion existed in some areas as to which of numerous sewer plans and planning boundary definitions that have been produced since the 1981 NEFCO 208 CWP should be recognized in this CWP update. The lack of a~~



formal procedure to clearly identify FPA boundaries and to track changes to these definitions over time is partially responsible for this confusion. The plan update process remedies this situation.

All owners or operators of POTWs were provided maps identifying FPA boundaries in the CWP. DMAs were requested to revise existing FPA boundaries to accommodate changes that had been realized since the 2011 update, over the last twenty years and expected development during the next twenty years. This process also allowed DMAs to propose the removal of areas from its previously defined FPA that it has no plans for sewerage. The expansion of FPAs could also be proposed with the consent of affected units of government.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 3-1: NEFCO Region Primary Designated Management Agencies\***

| <b>Portage County</b>    | <b>Summit County</b>      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| City of Aurora           | City of Akron             |
| City of Kent             | City of Barberton         |
| City of Ravenna          | City of Twinsburg         |
| Village of Garrettsville | NEORS                     |
| Village of Hiram         | Summit County             |
| Village of Mantua        |                           |
| Village of Windham       | <b>Wayne County</b>       |
| Portage County           | City of Orrville          |
|                          | City of Rittman           |
| <b>Stark County</b>      | City of Wooster           |
| City of Alliance         | Village of Apple Creek    |
| City of Canal Fulton     | Village of Congress       |
| City of Canton           | Village of Creston        |
| City of Louisville       | Village of Dalton         |
| City of Massillon        | Village of Doylestown     |
| Village of Beach City    | Village of Fredericksburg |
| Village of Brewster      | Village of Marshallville  |
| Village of Hartsville    | Village of Mount Eaton    |
| Village of Minerva       | Village of Shreve         |
| Village of Navarre       | Village of Smithville     |
| Stark County             | Village of West Salem     |
| Tuscarawas County        | Wayne County              |
|                          | <del>Holmes County</del>  |

\*A Primary DMA is the county or municipality that owns the central wastewater treatment plant.

<sup>3</sup> The boundaries that are recognized by this update replace all boundaries previously developed in the original 208 plans for the area. While there continues to be marked similarity between the boundaries established by the original 208 Planning process and the boundaries included in this update, there are notable differences. Boundary changes fall into two categories: those that reflect changes initiated by planning for active sewer extensions, and those that involve a strategic refocusing of planning objectives. Examples of the latter former category include the merging of the former Pond Brook FPA into the Twinsburg FPA, boundaries between the FPAs of Medina County and the City of Akron. Each of these changes occurred as the former FPA boundary was moved to serve an area in a bordering FPA that could not be otherwise serviced in a timely or efficient manner. The DMAs of both FPAs agreed to the changes and Ohio EPA concurred. A new FPA is being established in Wayne County for Randolph Township.

The second category of FPA boundary changes was based on facilities planning that progressed after the initial 208 process. Several DMAs centralized their planning focus within their initial 201 FPA boundaries. These communities concluded that they had no intention of extending out to the farthest reaches of their planning area. They have established new boundaries to reflect this. Communities that fall into this group include the City of Twinsburg, The City of Akron and Summit County (for its Hudson Streetsboro WWTP (Summit County portion) extended their planning areas to provide service to areas not originally included in a planning area.

Many facilities planning areas encompass political units of government, with autonomous wastewater planning ability which lie physically beyond the political jurisdiction boundaries of the DMA responsible for wastewater planning (Table 3-2). The CWP recognizes service agreements that exist between a POTW owner and the units of government serviced by that POTW. Those agreements can specify which wastewater planning functions are to be assumed by the DMAs. All plans developed for the DMAs are recognized by the CWP.

NEFCO maintains detailed mapping files as part of its geographic information system (GIS), some of which are parcel-specific. With the adoption of this update by the NEFCO General Policy Board the files maintained in this format are the definitive statement of all FPA boundaries unless a more detailed map has been created by a DMA as part of its wastewater planning process. If a DMA has a more detailed map of boundaries in a report that has been submitted to and approved by the Ohio EPA, NEFCO can accept those boundaries with the consent of the affected units of government. In all cases, the NEFCO GIS maps are the definitive source of FPA boundaries. Requests for changes to existing boundaries must be submitted by a DMA and will be recognized in the plan after review and acceptance by NEFCO. NEFCO will provide electronic copies of all approved updates to the Northeast District Office of the Ohio EPA.

**Table 3-2**  
**Incorporated Units of Government and Associated Primary and Secondary Designated Management Agencies (DMA) for wastewater management planning**

| Local Government             | County  | FPA                      | Primary Designated Management Agency (DMA)(s) <sup>1</sup> |  | Secondary Designated Management Agency (DMA) <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--|--|---|
|                              |         |                          | DMA  | Destination of Wastewater                  |   |
| City of Aurora               | Portage | Aurora                   | City of Aurora   | Aurora WWTP, Aurora Shores WWTP            | City of Aurora  |
| City of Kent                 | Portage | Kent, Fish Creek         | City of Kent, PCRSD  | Kent WWTP, Franklin Hills WWTP             | PCRSD   |
| City of Ravenna              | Portage | Ravenna                  | City of Ravenna  | Ravenna WWTP                               | City of Ravenna, PCRSD                                    |
| City of Streetsboro          | Portage | Hudson-Streetsboro, Kent | PCRSD, City of Kent  | Streetsboro Regional WWTP, Twin Lakes WWTP | SSSD4, PCRSD  |
| Village of Brady Lake        | Portage | Fish Creek               | PCRSD  | Franklin Hills WWTP                        | PCRSD   |
| Village of Garrettsville     | Portage | Hiram-Garrettsville      | Garrettsville  | Garrettsville WWTP                         | PCRSD   |
| Village of Hiram             | Portage | Hiram-Garrettsville      | Hiram  | Hiram WWTP                                 | PCRSD   |
| Village of Mantua            | Portage | Mantua                   | Village of Mantua, PCRSD                                   | Mantua WWTP                                | PCRSD, Village of Mantua                                  |
| Village of Sugar Bush Knolls | Portage | Kent                     | City of Kent, PCRSD  | Twin Lakes WWTP                            | PCRSD   |

**Table 3-2**  
**Incorporated Units of Government and Associated Primary and Secondary**  
**Designated Management Agencies (DMA) for wastewater management planning**

| Local Government           | County  | FPA                 | Primary Designated Management Agency (DMA)(s) <sup>1</sup> |                           | Secondary Designated Management Agency (DMA) <sup>2</sup>   |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
|                            |         |                     | DMA  | Destination of Wastewater |   |
| Village of Windham         | Portage | Windham             | Village of Windham, PCRSD                                  | Windham WWTP              | PCRSD   |
| City of Alliance           | Stark   | Alliance            | City of Alliance   | City of Alliance WWTP     | SCMSD   |
| City of Canal Fulton       | Stark   | Canal Fulton        | City of Canal Fulton                                       | Canal Fulton WWTP         | StCMSD, WCOES   |
| City of Canton             | Stark   | Canton              | City of Canton   | City of Canton WRF        | StCMSD, SCMSD   |
| City of Louisville         | Stark   | Canton              | City of Louisville   | City of Louisville WWTP   | StCMSD  |
| City of Massillon          | Stark   | Massillon           | Massillon  | Massillon WWTP            | StCMSD  |
| City of North Canton       | Stark   | Canton              | City of Canton   | City of Canton WRF        | City of North Canton  |
| Village of Beach City      | Stark   | Beach City-Wilmot   | Beach City   | Beach City WWTP           | Village of Wilmot, StCMSD   |
| Village of Brewster        | Stark   | Brewster            | Brewster   | Brewster WWTP             | StCMSD  |
| Village of East Canton     | Stark   | Canton              | StCMSD   | City of Canton WRF        | StCMSD  |
| Village of East Sparta     | Stark   | East Sparta         | Tuscarawas County  | Sandyville WWTP           | StCMSD  |
| Village of Hartville       | Stark   | Hartville           | Village of Hartville                                       | Hartville WWTP            | StCMSD, PCRSD   |
| Village of Hills and Dales | Stark   | Massillon           | Massillon  | Massillon WWTP            | StCMSD  |
| Village of Magnolia        | Stark   | Waynesburg-Magnolia | StCMSD   | Waynesburg-Magnolia WWTP  |   |
| Village of Minerva         | Stark   | Minerva             | Village of Minerva   | Minerva WWTP              | StCMSD  |
| Village of Navarre         | Stark   | Navarre, StCMSD     | Navarre  | Navarre WWTP              | StCMSD  |
| Village of Waynesburg      | Stark   | Waynesburg-Magnolia | StCMSD   | Waynesburg-Magnolia WWTP  |   |
| Village of Wilmot          | Stark   | Beach City-Wilmot   | Beach City   | Beach City WWTP           | Village of Wilmot, StCMSD   |
| City of Akron              | Summit  | Akron               | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS                | BTSWD, <del>City of Akron</del> , <del>City of Barberton</del> , <del>City of Cuyahoga Falls</del> , <del>City of Fairlawn</del> , <del>City of Munroe Falls</del> , <del>City of Stow</del> , <del>City of Tallmadge</del> , PCRSD, SCMSD, <del>Village of Lakemore</del> , <del>Village of Mogadore</del> , <del>Village of Silver Lake</del> |

**Table 3-2**  
**Incorporated Units of Government and Associated Primary and Secondary**  
**Designated Management Agencies (DMA) for wastewater management planning**

| Local Government                       | County         | FPA  | Primary Designated Management Agency (DMA)(s) <sup>1</sup> |   | Secondary Designated Management Agency (DMA) <sup>2</sup> |
|--|----------------|--|--|---|---|
|  |                |  | DMA  | Destination of Wastewater   |   |
| City of Barberton                      | Summit         | Barberton-Wolf Creek                           | City of Barberton  | Barberton WWTP  | City of Barberton<br>City of Akron                        |
| City of Cuyahoga Falls                 | Summit         | Akron  | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS  | SCMSD, City of Akron, City of Cuyahoga Falls              |
| City of Fairlawn                       | Summit         | Akron  | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS  | City of Fairlawn  |
| City of Green                          | Summit         | Springfield                                    | SCMSD  | Springfield 91 WWTP   | StCMSD, PCRSD   |
| City of Hudson                         | Summit         | Fish Creek, CVI, Hudson-Streetsboro            | SCMSD, NEORSD, SSSD4                                       | Fish Creek WWTP, Southerly WWTP, Streetsboro Regional WWTP                    | SCMSD, <b>City of Hudson</b> , PCRSD                      |
| City of Macedonia                      | Summit         | CVI  | NEORSD   | Southerly WWTP  | SCMSD   |
| City of Munroe Falls                   | Summit         | Akron, Fish Creek                              | City of Akron, SCMSD                                       | Akron WPCS, Fish Creek WWTP   | SCMSD   |
| City of New Franklin                   | Summit         | Franklin-Green                                 | SCMSD  | NA  |   |
| City of Norton                         | Summit         | Barberton-Wolf Creek                           | City of Barberton  | Barberton WWTP  | SCMSD, City of Norton                                     |
| City of Stow                           | Summit         | Akron, Fish Creek                              | City of Akron, SCMSD                                       | Akron WPCS, Fish Creek WWTP   | SCMSD, City of Stow                                       |
| City of Tallmadge                      | Summit/Portage | Akron, Fish Creek                              | City of Akron, SCMSD                                       | Akron WPCS, Fish Creek WWTP   | SCMSD, City of Tallmadge                                  |
| City of Twinsburg                      | Summit         | Twinsburg                                      | City of Twinsburg  | Twinsburg WWTP  | SCMSD   |
| Bath Township Water and Sewer District | Summit         | Akron  | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS  | SCMSD, BTWSD  |
| Twinsburg Water and Sewer District     | Summit/Portage | CVI, Hudson-Streetsboro, Pond Brook, Twinsburg | SCMSD, NEORSD, PCRSD, City of Twinsburg                    | Twinsburg WWTP, Southerly WWTP, Streetsboro Regional WWTP, Aurora Shores WWTP | SCMSD, PCRSD, TWSD, SSSD4                                 |
| Village of Boston Heights              | Summit         | CVI  | NEORSD   | Southerly WWTP  | SCMSD   |
| Village of Clinton                     | Summit         | Franklin-Green                                 | SCMSD  | Zelray WWTP, Broken Fence WWTP  | StCMSD  |
| Village of Mogadore                    | Summit/Portage | Akron  | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS  | SCMSD   |
| Village of Northfield                  | Summit         | CVI  | NEORSD   | Southerly WWTP  | Vil. of Northfield  |
| Village of Peninsula <sup>3</sup>      | Summit         | CVI  | N/A  | N/A   | N/A   |
| Village of Reminderville               | Summit         | Pond Brook                                     | SCMSD  | Aurora Shores WWTP  | SCMSD   |
| Village of Richfield                   | Summit         | CVI  | NEORSD   | Southerly WWTP  | Vil. of Richfield   |
| Village of Silver Lake                 | Summit         | Akron  | City of Akron  | Akron WPCS  | Village of Silver Lake, SCMSD                             |

**Table 3-2**  
**Incorporated Units of Government and Associated Primary and Secondary**  
**Designated Management Agencies (DMA) for wastewater management planning**

| Local Government          | County | FPA            | Primary Designated Management Agency (DMA)(s) <sup>1</sup> |                           | Secondary Designated Management Agency (DMA) <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------|--|---------------------------|---|
|                           |        |                | DMA  | Destination of Wastewater |   |
| City of Orrville          | Wayne  | Orrville       | Orrville   | Orrville WWTP             | WCOES, Orrville   |
| City of Rittman           | Wayne  | Rittman        | Rittman  | Rittman WWTP              | WCOES, Medina County                                      |
| City of Wooster           | Wayne  | Wooster        | Wooster  | Wooster WWTP              | WCOES, Wooster  |
| Village of Apple Creek    | Wayne  | Apple Creek    | Apple Creek  | Apple Creek WWTP          | WCOES   |
| Village of Burbank        | Wayne  | Burbank        | WCOES  | Burbank WWTP              |   |
| Village of Congress       | Wayne  | N/A            | Wayne  | N/A                       | N/A   |
| Village of Creston        | Wayne  | Creston        | Creston  | Creston WWTP              | WCOES, Medina County                                      |
| Village of Dalton         | Wayne  | Dalton         | Dalton   | Dalton WWTP               | WCOES   |
| Village of Doylestown     | Wayne  | Doylestown     | Doylestown   | Doylestown WWTP           | WCOES   |
| Village of Fredericksburg | Wayne  | Fredericksburg | Fredericksburg   | Fredericksburg WWTP       | WCOES   |
| Village of Marshallville  | Wayne  | Marshallville  | Marshallville  | Marshallville WWTP        | WCOES   |
| Village of Mount Eaton    | Wayne  | Mount Eaton    | Mount Eaton  | Mount Eaton WWTP          | WCOES   |
| Village of Shreve         | Wayne  | Shreve         | Shreve   | Shreve WWTP               | WCOES, Holmes County                                      |
| Village of Smithville     | Wayne  | Smithville     | Smithville   | Smithville WWTP           | WCOES   |
| Village of West Salem     | Wayne  | West Salem     | West Salem   | West Salem WWTP           | WCOES   |

Akron WPCS - Akron Water Pollution Control Station  
 BTWSD – Bath Township Water and Sewer District  
 CVI - Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor  
 DMA - Designated Management Agency  
 FPA – Facilities Planning Area  
 NEORS - Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
 PCRSD - Portage County Regional Sewer District  
 (Portage County Water Resources)  
 POTW - Publicly-Owned Treatment Works

NA - not available  
 SCMSD - Summit County Metropolitan Sewer District (Dept. of Environmental-Sanitary Sewer Services)  
 SSSD4 - Streetsboro Sanitary Sewer District No. 4 (Portage County Water Resources)  
 StCMSD - Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District  
 TWSD - Twinsburg Water and Sewer District  
 WCOES - Wayne County Office of Environmental Services  
 WWTP - Wastewater Treatment Plant  
 WPCC- Water Pollution Control Center

<sup>1</sup>Primary DMA is the county or municipality that owns the central wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

<sup>2</sup>Secondary DMA is the county, municipality, or political entity that builds, operates, and maintains the sewers under their jurisdiction.

<sup>3</sup>Does not have any sewers or wastewater plant

Each DMA responsible for wastewater planning should develop plans spanning a twenty-year time period. The assumption is that the appropriate time for the development of these twenty-year plans is predicated by the life expectancy of each wastewater treatment plant. When the existing facility looks to upgrade or expand, part of the planning should include a review of wastewater treatment needs for all areas within the plant’s FPA boundary over the

twenty-year time period. The results of this planning will be recognized by the State's WQMP when accepted by the Ohio EPA.

### **Policy 3-2: Endorsement of Modifications to FPA Boundaries**

**The NEFCO General Policy Board must approve updated changes to FPA boundary definitions. The Board must also approve all new FPAs. These changes are effective on Board approval and will be reflected in the next plan update submitted for certification.**

The updated plan recognizes the FPA designations that are identified in Appendices 3-2 to 3-552. For changes requested after the plan update is certified, the DMA requesting a change must apply to NEFCO for redefinition of its boundaries. This will require the DMA to solicit support from all affected units of government (Primary DMAs, Secondary DMAs, Cities, Villages, Townships, and Counties) including any other DMA that may be affected by the redefinition. If an FPA proposal crosses the planning area boundary between NOACA or Eastgate and NEFCO, the approval of both agencies will be required.

### **Policy 3-3: Development of Local Wastewater Management Options and Prescriptions**

**DMAs are encouraged to develop wastewater management options and prescriptions within their facilities planning areas in cooperation with affected units of government. These options and prescriptions must comply with requirements of the Clean Water Act. To the extent that the option identified involves the enlargement of an existing POTW, the construction of a new POTW or the extension of sewers, that option must conform to consistency requirements of the NEFCO CWP (see Policy 3-4).**

This update to the NEFCO CWP offers local communities an opportunity to have input into the definition of future wastewater planning in areas that are not sewered.

At present, DMAs develop sewerage plans that are cost efficient from an engineering standpoint within their FPA. While coordination with local governments regularly occurs, there is no provision in the existing 208 plan that would encourage engineering plans to be amended based upon the desire of a local government to manage growth within its jurisdiction. This update to the 208 Plan provides such a mechanism. Local governments are encouraged to identify where they want or do not want central sewers. The DMA in each FPA must consult with affected units of government and take into account their input in all cases that do not raise engineering or efficiency limitations.

In those areas where local officials want wastewater treatment to be exclusively individual on-site systems, several conditions must be met.

- 1) The county or municipal health departments responsible for managing on-site systems must authorize their use in the area under discussion.

- 2) The provisions of ORC 6111 and /or applicable local city or county regulations requires connection to sanitary sewers when they become available by order of local or County Health Department or the Ohio EPA.
- 3) The designation of an area as ‘on-site systems only’ applies as long as Ohio EPA does not mandate sewers under ORC 6117.34 if a water quality problem is demonstrated.

Facilities planning areas maps contained in Appendices 3-2 through 3-552 indicate in generalized terms the preferences of local officials regarding future sanitary sewer service areas in the NEFCO Region.

As with FPA boundary maps, detailed boundary locations and community specific preferences are in the GIS database maintained by NEFCO. This database will be consulted when consistency reviews are made. The information contained in this database reflects the input from local elected and appointed officials who responded to a request from the areawide planning agencies during the plan update process.

Some units of government in the region are served by a neighboring or regional system. The preferences expressed by these units of government are subject to the acceptance of the DMA providing service. During a 208 plan consistency review, the DMA must demonstrate that consultation has occurred with units of government in its facilities planning area to ascertain preferences for sanitary sewer service.

Existing policies of local management agencies that have legal responsibility and authority to influence wastewater treatment, continue to be recognized under this proposed policy. Local health department policies are specifically recognized. The Ohio EPA has developed a NPDES general permit that applies to individual residential wastewater treatment systems that have an off-lot discharge. The policy has been incorporated into Chapter 4 of the CWP.

Local units of government preferences remain flexible to the extent desired by the units of government. These community specific preferences serve to guide the wastewater planning decisions of local landowners. It is recognized that all documented wastewater related water quality problems that exist now or that develop in the future, must be remediated in a timely manner by the best means available. Where wastewater related problems do not exist, local units of government can decide if they prefer to protect water quality by utilizing individual on-site systems or centralized sanitary sewers. By identifying the areas that have no plans for sewer extensions in the next 20 years in this Plan, units of government have served notice to all landowners of the need for them to plan for the installation, operation, maintenance, and replacement of on-site systems. In areas where sanitary sewers are likely to be extended, repair and maintenance of problematic on-site systems may be warranted instead of total system replacement. In all cases, landowners are provided notice by this Plan to consult with local government officials before proceeding with their wastewater plans.

### **Policy 3-4: 208 Plan Consistency Actions for Ohio EPA and USEPA**

**Consistency with this CWP update will be required whenever an application is made to the Ohio EPA for (a) a permit to discharge pollutants into the waters of the state (NPDES Permit) or (b) a Permit-to-Install. Also, as per Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) policy, a consistency review will also be required of applicants for grants or loans under the Clean Water Act.**

This policy is consistent with current Ohio EPA policies in undesignated 208 planning areas of the state. Under the CWP update, a consistency review will be required whenever an application is made to the Ohio EPA for a permit to discharge pollutants into the waters of the state. This applies to applications to increase an existing WWTP permitted discharge amount, to extend new sewer lines into a previously unsewered area, or to install an entirely new discharge. A consistency review will also be required of applicants for grants or loans under the Clean Water Act.

The Ohio EPA will notify NEFCO of all permit applications that apply to a Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW) within the NEFCO area. NEFCO must certify that proposed POTW actions are consistent with the current FPA boundary definitions, that they support the future sewerage declarations made by the local officials in the affected area, and that they conform to population projections contained in the CWP.

The Ohio EPA will process all applications in accordance with existing regulations for PTIs that apply to treatment works servicing an individual lot that are in accordance with the declarations by units of government contained in Appendices 3-2 to 3-552.

### **Policy 3-5: Utilization of Areawide Population Projections**

**All applications subject to Policies 3-3 and 3-4 will utilize population projections that are consistent with those provided in Appendices 3-2 to 3-552. NEFCO will periodically update projections based upon new community level census data. Updated population projections will be incorporated into the CWP by amendment.**

The consistency review process will include the assessment of the most recent population projections generated by the areawide planning process utilized by NEFCO.

The Ohio Department of Development Services Agency (ODSA) prepares the official population projections for the State of Ohio. They allocate projections to the county level. For wastewater planning purposes, NEFCO is the lead agency for allocating the State's county level projections to minor civil divisions in its region. When the agency updates its projections, it will forward a copy to the Northeast District Office of the Ohio EPA. The population projections shown in Appendixes 3-2 to 3-552 were produced by NEFCO in 1990. These projections are used by NEFCO for consistency reviews. In 2000, NEFCO staff extended these projections to the year 2030. They were approved by the NEFCO General Policy Board in May 2000. The methodology and community projections are included in



Appendix 3-563. This set of projections is used as reference information to the projection figures contained in Appendices 3-2 to 3-552.

The Ohio Department of Development Services Agency has published the 2010 population projections by county, using the 2010 Census of Population as a base, and community as prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Appendix 3-564 has this 2010 population information for NEFCO's region. As has been done for previous updates and if funding permits, NEFCO will revise the CWP's population projections once the ODSA has prepared and released population projections which use the 2010 census figures as the base.

NEFCO will coordinate with the region's transportation planning agencies (AMATS and SCATS) the disaggregation of the ODSA county projections to the local government level. In Wayne County, NEFCO will coordinate this effort with the Wayne County Planning Department.

The minor civil division population projections serve as a starting point for the evaluation of population projections within facilities planning areas. The facilities planning process may reaggregate community projections to smaller areas. This may be based on an evaluation of available land for development combined with local zoning. Additional inputs can be used as appropriate. The revised population projections will be deemed consistent with the plan if they agree with the plan's projections. Departure from this plan's projections must be accepted by NEFCO before consistency is established.

### **Policy 3-6: Updating and/or Revising the Facilities Planning Areas of Designated Management Agencies**

**Designated Management Agencies that own a Publicly-Owned Treatment Works for wastewater have lead responsibility for sewer planning i.e. updating and/or revisions within the boundaries of the sewer districts in the Facilities Planning Area subject only to appeal to the NEFCO General Policy Board under Policies 3-6a and 3-6b below. However, the county will continue to have responsibility for sewer planning in conformity with any agreements with the DMA and 201 facility plan in all unincorporated areas, and incorporated areas where sewer service agreements are in place, including those within an established FPA. County agencies will submit their sewer plans to the DMA to be incorporated into their facilities plan.**

This policy addresses how responsibility for sewer planning is established and how it is to be updated when the need arises. It also gives affected units of government guidance for challenging DMA decisions. It is important to note that the Ohio EPA cannot legally issue a permit for any action that is in conflict not consistent with the 208 Plan. FPA boundary disputes are encouraged to be resolved as part of the 201 facilities planning update process prior to the review for consistency of any project by the NEFCO Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) and General Policy Board. When annexations occur, the existing prescription color remains in the annexed area. The prescription

represented by that color may or may not change depending on sanitary sewer service agreements between ~~designated~~ management agencies, and what local health department jurisdiction(s) is in effect in the annexed area. Should the ~~designated~~ management agency with jurisdiction over the newly annexed area determine that its prescription for the existing color designation in the annexed area is not sufficient for its wastewater treatment planning needs, it must initiate the Clean Water Plan amendment process in order to change the prescription and its attendant color for the annexed area. These guidelines are explained below.

## **Guidelines for Amending a 201/208 Facilities Planning Area**

The following guidelines should be used when requesting an amendment to a 201 Facilities Plan, under NEFCO's Clean Water Plan.

### **Application Packet**

The Designated Management Agency (DMA) proposing a modification will submit the following items in its proposed amendment application:

- a) Purpose;
- b) Introduction;
- c) Brief description of why the 201 needs to be amendment;
- d) Historical information of existing 201 FPA boundary (include map);
- e) Historical information of existing wastewater prescription;
- f) List of all affected DMAs;
- h) Map of proposed changes;
- i) Updated wastewater treatment planning prescriptions and wastewater planning options;
- j) Conclusion;
- k) Received comment letters;
- j) Summary of public notification efforts.

### **Process for Review**

- a) The DMA requesting the Facilities Planning Area (FPA) amendment must submit the proposed update to the DMA that has authority over the area in question, the lead DMA for the 201 Facilities Planning Area, NEFCO, and local governments to be affected by the proposed updated Facilities Planning Area for review and comment. The DMA requesting the amendment must be able to show adequate proof of when the notification process started. The final determination on local governments affected by an amendment will be made by NEFCO staff (Executive Director) in consultation with the management agency requesting the amendment, and will be based on the location, scope, and any other details that define the area of influence of the proposed amendment.
- b) The DMA requesting the amendment must attempt to secure comment letters from the DMA that has authority over the area in question, the lead DMA, and local governments to be affected by the proposed 201 FPA update, as determined by NEFCO.
- c) If not already provided, the DMA that has authority over the area in question, the lead DMA, and local governments to be affected by the proposed 201 FPA update (as determined by NEFCO) will have a maximum of 45 days upon receipt of the proposed amendment (unless extended by the ERTAC) to respond to the DMA requesting the update. The 45-day response period is based on the adequate proof of when the notification process began; as provided by the management agency submitting the proposed amendment.
- d) The DMA requesting the FPA amendment must at minimum have a legal or public notice **published** in the newspaper of greatest circulation for the area to be updated. The notice should include who is proposing the amendment, what is being amended, why an amendment is needed, list of involved streams/wetlands, a fifteen day comment period, where to submit comments (address and email), where and how to find additional

information on the proposed update, and a contact person with their phone number or email. The public notice, comments received, and any follow-up correspondence from the DMA to the public must be submitted with the application packet. An alternative means to solicit public input on a proposed FPA amendment could be utilized by the proposing DMA if prior approval is granted by NEFCO's Executive Director.

- e) The DMA requesting the amendment will submit the proposed application packet with received comment letters and public notification materials to NEFCO for review two weeks prior to NEFCO's Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) meeting in order to allow enough time for NEFCO to conduct a 201/208 consistency review.

### **NEFCO Staff 201/208 Clean Water Plan Consistency Review**

NEFCO staff will conduct a 201/208 Consistency Review of the proposed FPA amendments, based on the following criteria:

- a) Staff reviews proposed project's (201) FPA boundaries with those in NEFCO's Clean Water Plan (CWP);
- b) Staff checks to see whether the project's population projections are consistent with those in the CWP;
- c) Staff reviews the adequacy of the project's selected treatment alternative (wastewater treatment planning prescriptions and wastewater planning options).
- d) Staff reviews the public notification materials to determine if public involvement was adequate for the proposed amendment.
- e) Staff prepares a recommendation on the above three criteria and submits the 201 update to the ERTAC for consideration.

### **ERTAC and NEFCO General Policy Board Review**

- a) The DMA requesting the FPA amendment will present the proposed update to the ERTAC and NEFCO staff will present the 201/208 consistency review findings to the ERTAC with its recommendation.
- b) The ERTAC will conduct a technical review of the proposed FPA amendment and forward through NEFCO staff a recommendation for consideration by the General Policy Board.
- c) NEFCO staff will present the consistency review results and the ERTAC recommendation to the General Policy Board. It is recommended that the DMA requesting the FPA amendment be present at the General Policy Board meeting to answer any questions that the General Policy Board may have.
- d) The General Policy Board makes a determination and staff communicates this to the applicant.
- e) The General Policy Board decision will be forwarded to Ohio EPA-NEDO for inclusion in its 201 plans as a component of the overall 208 update for PTI and NPDES permitting.
- f) The amendment will then be incorporated into NEFCO's Clean Water Plan (mapping, wastewater prescription).

### **Time-line for 201/208 Facilities Planning Area Updates**

The DMA requesting the FPA amendment must submit the proposed 201 update in a manner that can be verified on when the process started to the legally recognized primary DMA for the area in question, the lead DMA for the Facilities Planning Area, NEFCO, and local governments within the proposed update area for review and comment. A 45-day comment period shall commence the following working day from which the verifiable notification has been received. The DMA requesting the FPA amendment must submit a public notice to the newspaper of greatest circulation within the updated area. A fifteen-day public comment period for the proposed amendment is recommended for all FPA updates. The public comment period starts on the day after the day the legal or public notice was published in the appropriate newspaper.

The DMA submitting the FPA amendment will submit the proposed revision with comment letters and public notification information to NEFCO, a minimum of two weeks prior to NEFCO's ERTAC meeting to permit enough time for the NEFCO staff to conduct a 201/208 consistency review of the proposed FPA amendment.

**Policy 3-6a: Responsibility for sewer planning will be with the Primary Designated Management Agency(s) in each established Facilities Planning Area in all cases of challenge when they can demonstrate any of the following:**

- a. that the system affordability would be negatively impacted by the suggested change;
- b. that system efficiency, defined as the ability to meet its NPDES permit limitations, would be compromised by a suggested change; or
- c. that the sewer system rated capacity will be exceeded;
- d. that the change would result in a violation of a condition of a Section 201 Facilities Construction Grant received through the USEPA or a provision of a State Revolving Fund administered by the Ohio EPA.
- e. that if the DMA can show that it will suffer undue harm, or if it can demonstrate that system integrity would be compromised by the change, it must be given the opportunity to maintain its status as primary DMA.
- f. that if an existing primary and/or secondary DMA has constructed components of their sewer system (WWTP or collection system) to serve the requested change in FPA area, no change in the FPA would be allowed unless compensation is made for capital expenditures.

Conflicts stemming from problems related to officially recognized FPA boundaries are expected to occur from time to time. Furthermore, they will take on new dimensions that were not considered during the development of the original Plan. A DMA covered by an existing facility plan may want sewers to be extended while the POTW owner has no plans to allow the request to extend service. An appeal process initiated by the DMA that could result in the redefinition of existing FPA boundaries is necessary.

Under this policy, the DMA for an approved FPA will continue to have primacy for sewer planning but that primacy will no longer be as absolute as in the past. The request of any DMA to transfer a specified area out of a recognized FPA needs to be open to consideration.

A process to deal with the evaluation of each application must follow established guidelines. For instance, the existing DMA will maintain the right to provide for sewerage of the designated area if they can demonstrate that it will be harmed by a redesignation. Demonstrations of economic harm need to show that the existing or future level of affordability as established by federal guidelines for wastewater treatment affordability will not be met if the application for change is allowed to proceed. Further, in the absence of any agreement between DMAs, approval of a request for a change in FPAs is dependent upon any existing prorated capital (WWTP or sewer collection system) for existing or future servicing of the requested area being reimbursed to the existing primary and/or secondary DMA. System efficiency and integrity concerns must be tied to reasonable expectations that a WWTP will be unable to maintain compliance with its discharge permit limits. USEPA or the Ohio EPA must certify those cases where 201 Facilities Grant or State Revolving Fund conditions preclude a requested change in FPA boundaries.

In cases where central sewers are needed and are the only means available to comply with an Ohio EPA order to resolve an existing water quality problem, the primary and/or secondary DMA's primacy standing would be dependent on its ability and willingness to proceed with the sewer extensions and capacity upgrades if necessary. If the primary and/or secondary DMA is not prepared or is not able to proceed in a timely manner, the DMA applicant for change can request a redrawing of the FPA boundary. However, the primary DMA has the right to make the sewer extensions and capacity upgrades should the secondary DMA be unable or unwilling to make such an extension.

**Policy 3-6b: Planning responsibility for limited areas can be transferred from the Designated Management Agency in an established Facilities Planning Area in cases of challenge when the DMA applicant for change can demonstrate all of the following:**

- a. that none of the conditions established by 3-6a apply;**
- b. that the existing DMA is unprepared or is unwilling to extend service to the challenged area, or that they have conditions that are unreasonable for the DMA applicant community;**
- c. that an alternative sewerage plan exists that protects the environment, and that the alternative plan is technically achievable, economically affordable, and politically acceptable;**
- d. that the proposed DMA has the legal authority to act.**

Transfers must be approved by the Ohio EPA and incorporated by amendment to the CWP. A DMA's planning standing would be dependent on the ability and willingness to proceed with the sewer extensions (and capacity upgrades if necessary) to areas within an established FPA that request such extensions. If the DMA is not prepared or is not able to proceed in a timely manner, the applicant for change can request a redrawing of the FPA boundary. This request would be considered with the intention of identifying viable alternative wastewater alternatives. The applicant would be required to demonstrate that an alternative exists, that the alternative is technically achievable, economically affordable and politically acceptable. If the proposed plan is consistent with all other aspects of the CWP, it can result in a change

being made to the existing FPA definition in favor of the applicant. The NEFCO continuing planning process will provide a forum for all affected parties to affect a consensus agreement. When consensus cannot be reached, the NEFCO ERTAC will hear all viewpoints, and render a recommendation for action to the Policy Board. The Board action on such requests would constitute an update to the Plan as far as future consistency reviews are concerned in the challenged area.

Where no other acceptable solution can be found, a community that is part of another community's FPA can request the right to develop plans to direct their wastewater to an alternative treatment works. This could be to another existing POTW or as a last resort, to an entirely new POTW if one can be constructed. All applications for the redrawing of existing FPA boundaries must be accompanied by plans which demonstrate that an environmentally acceptable and affordable alternative exists. These plans must demonstrate that the reassignment of the area will not jeopardize the ability of the POTW currently slated to serve the disputed area to comply with its NPDES permit conditions. These plans must also estimate the impacts on existing rate structure of that POTW.

### **Policy 3-7: Nomination of New Management Agencies (formerly referred to as Designated Management Agencies)**

**New Management Agencies (MAs) can be established to provide sanitary sewer service in newly created Facilities Planning Areas (FPAs). The proposed MA and, if applicable, new Facilities Plan will be submitted to the Ohio EPA for review, comment and approval. Approval by the NEFCO Board is necessary for these MAs and FPAs to be recognized by the Clean Water Plan (CWP). The new MAs and FPAs will be incorporated into the CWP by amendment.**

All governmental entities that are not designated as a MA must apply for such status before their permit application can be processed. To become a MA designee, the applicant must have adequate legal authority under Ohio law and clearly identify the geographical extent of its proposed facilities planning area and sewer service area. It must also demonstrate that all affected local governments have been consulted in the development of the project. Support from all affected units of government (municipalities in incorporated areas and county government in unincorporated areas) must be secured. Any FPA infringements must either be resolved with the approval of the infringed upon MA or by appeal to the NEFCO Board (see Policy 3-6).

The applicant may propose an area for designation as an FPA that is larger than the current or proposed project service area. This can be done where it makes sense for the purposes of future sewer planning. NEFCO staff will seek comment from the Ohio EPA on all new MAs and FPAs. Following the NEFCO Board approval, the Ohio EPA will utilize the new designation(s) in its permit process.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTING ACTIONS BY LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT**

This section presents recommendations for wastewater management planning that reflect the input and decisions of responsible local governments and agencies.

**Recommendation 3-1: Local and county units of government are encouraged to conform land use plans to the wastewater service options and prescriptions identified in Appendices 3-2 to 3-552.**

Ideally the planning choices reflected in wastewater management options and prescriptions presented in Appendices 3-2 through 3-552 are consistent with local land use plans. The effectiveness of the CWP will be enhanced to the extent that it is consistent with these land use plans.

**Recommendation 3-2: Local units of government may consider the use of the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) approach or the Cooperative Economic Development Agreement (CEDA) approach to address conflicting interests in the process of wastewater treatment infrastructure.**

Numerous cases exist in the region where a municipality owns and operates a POTW whose FPA includes portions of surrounding townships and has a policy of annexation for service. This is rationalized because the municipality has used their sewer revenues and/or tax base to support the construction, operation, and maintenance of their sewer infrastructure and is attempting to insure that all beneficiaries pay a fair share of these costs. Annexation is the tool to accomplish this.

Compulsory annexations to receive sanitary sewer service are often strongly contested. Use of a substitute measure, a JEDD<sup>4</sup>, may meet the needs of both the municipality in question and the neighboring township. A JEDD or CEDA can be established by neighboring communities to allow an exchange of services and sharing of tax revenues. JEDD or CEDA agreements must be approved by vote of township residents. JEDD contracts include joint economic development districts, township service or sub-service areas, and non-service areas. Sewer (and water) lines are extended to joint economic development districts and, by petition (75 percent) to township service or sub-service areas. Township residents (or others) working in the joint economic districts are subject to an income tax that partially pays the capital cost of the extensions. All matters, including approving extensions, changes in joint economic districts or township service areas are made by an equally represented township/municipality JEDD Board. JEDDs promote controlled economic and real estate valuation growth in designated economic districts while limiting suburban sprawl. In non-JEDD or CEDA agreement areas where the loss of business base is an issue, additional tax sharing may have to be negotiated.

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<sup>4</sup>Ohio Revised Code 715.70-.71



JEDD or CEDA agreements should be preceded by a sewer service agreement as necessary. These sewer service agreements should follow the 201 update process as described in Chapter 3, Policy 3-6 to assure consistency with local facilities planning areas.

**Please refer to Appendices 3-1 through 3-552 for facilities planning areas locations, descriptions, and wastewater prescriptions.**