

OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

an interstate agency representing: Illinois • Indiana • Kentucky • New York • Ohio • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

5735 Kellogg Avenue

Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeanne J. Ison
513-231-7719

ORSANCO Grants PPG Conditional Variance

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) today granted a conditional variance to PPG Industries (Natrium, WV facility). Meeting at The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the variance regarding PPG's discharge of mercury.

While the Commission acted to grant a variance from a new standard scheduled to come into effect in late 2013, the impact of this variance is to require PPG to continue its work to reduce its mercury discharges to the Ohio River. This variance requires PPG to achieve mercury discharge levels which are approximately one third of their discharges when they started the process of evaluating discharge reduction possibilities as required by the variance process.

This variance will allow PPG to continue to have a mixing zone for its discharge of mercury for a five-year period after the Commission's prohibition on mixing zones for bioaccumulative chemicals of concern takes effect on October 16, 2013. Specifics of the variance are as follows:

1. The Commission's regulations must be met at all points in the river outside of a small area of mixing.
2. PPG has developed a comprehensive mercury reduction plan which must be fully implemented.
3. PPG is required to conduct monthly water quality monitoring and annual fish tissue monitoring to demonstrate compliance with the Commission's regulations.
4. PPG is required to submit annual progress reports to the Commission to demonstrate full implementation of its mercury reduction plan and compliance with all requirements of this variance.
5. The Commission reserves the right to modify, renew, or revoke the variance at its discretion at any time.
6. The variance will not interfere with West Virginia DEP's authorities.

ORSANCO is the water pollution control agency for the Ohio River and its tributaries representing the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The federal government is also represented.

ORSANCO | 5735 Kellogg Avenue | Cincinnati, OH 45230 | www.orsanco.org

