

Report of the NPDES Subcommittee

The ORSANCO NPDES Subcommittee met by conference call on Wednesday, September 8. Participants included representatives of Ohio EPA, Indiana DEM, Pennsylvania DEP, West Virginia DEP, and US EPA (Headquarters and Region 5).

Proposed Revisions to Commission Standards

Staff reviewed the proposed revisions to the Commission Standards. It was emphasized that the proposed criterion for total dissolved solids was an in stream criterion intended to apply outside the mixing zone. Participants in the call agreed that a mixing zone would be allowed in application of this criterion to discharges.

The Subcommittee also discussed items that might be taken up in the next review. The Subcommittee reaffirmed its position that a maximum temperature for protection of human health should be considered. The Subcommittee requests that the Stream Criteria Subcommittee consider this topic.

FGD Discharges

The Subcommittee continued its discussion of permit requirements for FGD discharges and activities by the ORSANCO staff that would assist permit writers in developing consistent requirements for these discharges. The Subcommittee would like to see staff compile current state requirements, and to compile the status of FGD discharges to the Ohio River. Staff should also confer routinely with US EPA on efforts to identify best treatment technology for FGD discharges.

Implementation of Ammonia Criteria

Staff presented three possible approaches to developing permit limits to assure compliance with the 1.0 mg/L limit for drinking water protection which was added to the ORSANCO Standards last year. The limit is to apply at drinking water intakes. Available information indicates that the limit is readily met. The Subcommittee asked for two pieces of additional information: first, additional analysis of available data to determine if ammonia concentrations might approach the 1.0 mg/L level under low flow and/or low temperature conditions; second, the Subcommittee is concerned that monitoring of ammonia at drinking water intakes be adequate to determine compliance with the new limit.

Next Conference Call

The next regular conference call of the Subcommittee will take place in December.