Ohio River Weekly Water Quality Report

Week of: 03/06/26

	PITTSBURGH	WHEELING	HUNTINGTON	CINCINNATI	LOUISVILLE	EVANSVILLE
Temperature	39.2 ˚F	44.0 ˚F	45.1 ˚F	44.4 ˚F	44.0 ˚F	50.0 ˚F
Turbidity (ntu)	7.7	26.0	138.0	153.2	120.0	47.4
pH	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.8
River Stage (ft)	12.6 feet	23.0 feet	35.1 feet	41.7 feet	16.7 feet	26.5 feet
River Flow (KCFS)	29.1	108.7	228.7	263.3	318.5	222.8
River Velocity(mph)	1.3 mph	2.9 mph	3.5 mph	3.7 mph	2.9 mph	2.4 mph

2025 Contact Rec Season has now concluded!

	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	(CFU/100mL)	River Mile	(CFU/100mL)	River Mile	(CFU/100 mL)	River Mile	(CFU/100mL)	River Mile	(CFU/100mL)
E. coli RM and Conc.	1.4	NS	86.8	NS	305.1	NS	462.6	NS	594.6	NS	791.5	NS
E. coli RM and Conc.	4.3	NS	92.8	NS	314.8	NS	470.0	NS	619.3	NS	793.7	NS
							477.5	NS				

NS=No Sample Collected

Contact Recreation water quality exceedances are posted in RED.

Technical Report:

Temperatures have increased from last week between 3-5 degrees.

Turbidity has increased in the middle sections of the Ohio River between Wheeling to Louisville, while having decreased in Pi ttsburgh and Evansville.

River stages in Cincinnati and Evansville are currently in Action Stage.

All of the sites are projected to crest over the next few days, with Evansville being closer to March 12th.

Velocities are projected to stay high over the next few days as well.

Ohio River Water Quality Reports are avaliable at the following site:

https://www.orsanco.org/data/weekly-ohio-river-water-quality-report/

Water Temperature – River water temperatures are measured sub-surface at intake depths and may not be reflective of the current temperature at the surface.

Turbidity – The measure of light scattering particles in the water that make the water look murky or muddy; the lower the turbidity, the clearer the water. The turbidity of the Ohio River can range from as low as single digits to 1200 NTUs (nephelometric turbidity units) as seen during flood conditions.

Stage - The measurement of the vertical elevation of the surface of the river.
http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/glance.php?wfo=iln&gage=ccno1&riverid=204624&view=1,1,1,1,1,1

Velocity – How fast the water is moving. Velocities on the Ohio River can range from 0.1 mph under low flow to 5 mph at flood stage.
http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/fg/fgus51.ktir.rvf.tir.txt

Flow- How much water is moving .The volume of water moving in kilo cubic feet per second. (KCFS) . 1 cubic foot is about the size of a basketball. Based on model-simulated projections at 7am EST. Forecasts include expected precipitation through the first 48 hours.

Bacteria - Bacteria concentrations in the Ohio River (and tributaries) can change rapidly following rain events. Rain can wash land-based bacteria from the watershed into the river /tributaries. Bacteria can also enter the system following rain events from combined sewer overflows. Full body contact with the river water, i.e., swimming, is not recommended when *E. coli* concentrations exceed 240 CFU/100mL.

HAB-Harmful Algal Bloom. Cyanobacteria or green algae that may produce toxins and can be detrimental to mammals. Under HAB conditions, direct contact and ingestion are not recommended. More information on HABs can be found at:
https://www.orsanco.org/programs/harmful-algae-blooms/

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