Ohio River Weekly Water Quality Report

Week of: 08/21/26

	PITTSBURGH	WHEELING	HUNTINGTON	CINCINNATI	LOUISVILLE	EVANSVILLE
Temperature	76.8 ˚F	76.0 ˚F	75.0 ˚F	80.1 ˚F	78.1 ˚F	82.4 ˚F
Turbidity (ntu)	6.4	11.0	233.0	175.0	190.0	92.2
pH	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.7
River Stage (ft)	11.8 feet	19.7 feet	28.9 feet	36.8 feet	16.1 feet	27.7 feet
River Flow (KCFS)	18.5	76.0	152.6	236.0	288.8	250.7
River Velocity(mph)	0.8 mph	2.7 mph	2.6 mph	3.5 mph	2.7 mph	2.6 mph

2026 Contact Rec Season has now started!

	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)
E. coli RM and Conc.	1.4	276	86.8	NA	305.1	1246	462.6	108	594.6	185	791.5	NA
E. coli RM and Conc.	4.3	291	92.8	NA	314.8	2987	470.0	238	619.3	132	793.7	NA
							477.5	260				

NS=No Sample Collected

NA= Data Not Available

Contact Recreation water quality exceedances are posted in RED.

Technical Report:

Water temperatures have dropped or stayed consistent at all sites.

Flows and velocities have increased at all sites.

River stages consistent at Louisville and Cincy with all other sites seeing an increase. Cincy briefly entered action stage with crest Wed. EVV in action stage with crest predicted for Sun AM at 29.4ft.

There are 5 bacteria exceedances this week. No data was available from two sites. HAB update: No algae reports to date. Bloom occurrence probability remains low across all sites

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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