

List of Acronyms

ADT - Average Daily Traffic
AMATS - Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
BMP - Best Management Practices
CEDA – Community Economic Development Agreement
CCC - Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee
CRCPO - Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization
CSO - Combined Sewer Overflow
CVI - Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor
CVNRA - Cuyahoga Valley National Resources Association
DEFA - Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
DMA - Designated Management Agency
EAC - NOACA Environmental Advisory Committee
ERTAC - NEFCO Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee
FPA - Facility Planning Area
GIS - Geographic Information Systems
HSDS - Home Sewage Disposal System
JEDD - Joint Economic Development District
LHD - Local Health District
LOS - Level-of-Service
MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization
MS4s - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
NEDO/OEPA - Northeast District Office of Ohio EPA
NEFCO - Northeast Ohio Four County Planning and Development Organization
NEORS - Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
NOACA - Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
NRMRL - National Risk Management Research Laboratory

List of Acronyms

(Continued)

O&M - Operational and Maintenance Programs
OAC - Ohio Administrative Code
ODH - Ohio Department of Health
ODNR - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODOT - Ohio Department of Transportation
OEPA - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
ORC - Ohio Revised Code
OWDA - Ohio Water Development Authority
POTW - Publicly Owned Treatment Works for Wastewater
PTI - Permit to Install
RAP - Remedial Action Plan
SPSDS - Semi-Public Sewage Disposal System
SRF - State Revolving Loan
SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District
TMDLs - Total Maximum Daily Loads
TRAC - Transportation Review Advisory Commission
USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA - United State Environmental Protection Agency
USRP - Urban Streams Restoration Plan
VHT - Vehicle Hours Traveled
VMT - Vehicle Miles Traveled
WPCLF - Water Pollution Control Loan Fund
WQMP - Water Quality Management Plan
WWTP - Waste Water Treatment Plan

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Glossary

Anti-Degradation Policy - As part of its water quality standards program, each state must establish an antidegradation policy consistent with 40 C.F. R. 131.12. Minimum requirements for an antidegradation policy are (1) existing in-stream water uses must be maintained and protected; (2) where the quality of a water body exceeds that are necessary to support propagation of fish and recreation, that quality of water must be maintained and protected unless the state finds, after full public participation, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area where the waters are located (existing uses still must be fully protected); and 3) where high-quality waters constitute an outstanding national resource, such as waters in national or state parks, that water quality shall be maintained and protected. Ohio EPA adopted new antidegradation regulations in 1996.

Area of Concern - Areas (identified by the International Joint Commission, the binational body charged with overseeing implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) with such significant pollution that they are a potential or existing threat to the Great Lakes (see **Remedial Action Plan**).

Areawide Planning Agency - A regional agency designated by a governor as a representative organization which includes but is not limited to, members selected from elected officials of local governments or their designees; and has planning jurisdiction in a designated area.

Areawide Water Quality Management Plan - See **Section 208 Plan**

Assimilative Capacity - The capacity of a natural body of water to receive: (1) waste waters, without deleterious effects; (2) toxic materials, without damage to aquatic life or humans consuming the water; and (3) biological oxygen demand, within prescribed dissolved oxygen limits.

Best Management Practices - Management practices (such as nutrient management) or structural practices (such as terraces) designed to reduce the quantities of pollutants, such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, and animal wastes washed by rain and snow melt from land into nearby receiving waters, such as lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, estuaries and ground water.

Bio-criteria - Water quality monitoring criteria based upon the ambient sampling of resident biological organisms to assess biological integrity. Biological, chemical and physical elements are considered. Other synonyms: in stream biological sampling, biosurveillance, biosurvey.

Bioengineering - The design and implementation of stream restoration techniques to enable a stream corridor to recover dynamic equilibrium and function at a self-sustaining level. These techniques include use of natural vegetative materials to stabilize stream banks.

Clean Water 2000 – The year 2000 update to the Section 208 Plan for the NOACA area. See **Section 208 Plan**.

Clean Water Act (CWA) - Technically this should be cited as Public Law 92-500. “Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.” The Act established a 1983 goal of fishable and swimmable waters and a 1985 goal of elimination of pollutant discharges into navigable waters. Amendments to the Act were made in 1977, 1981, and 1987.

Combined Sewer Overflow - Combined sewers are sewers designed to convey both sanitary wastes and storm water runoff in the same pipes; a combined sewer overflow is the location where storm water and municipal wastes are discharged to streams during rainfall events when the increased amount of flow cannot be carried by the sewer system to the waste water treatment plant.

Conservation Easement - An easement is an agreement, usually permanent, that transfers one or more of a landowners property rights to another party. In a conservation easement a property owner transfers the right to develop or consume that property and its resources to a public or non-profit entity which commits to conserving it in perpetuity.

Conservation Design - A form of development design that concentrates land disturbances in certain areas to limit its impact on natural habitat.

Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Programs - These are local programs designed to control the erosion and transport of sediment to streams from development sites by planning for and implementing best management practices.

Continuing Planning Process - A document prepared by the state in response to requirements of the Clean Water Act whose purpose is to define how the state, in Ohio the Ohio EPA, is implementing Section 303(e) of the CWA, which requires a description of the State process for preparing water quality management plans. The CPP provides a comprehensive overview of CWA program.

Critical Water Resource Areas - A term developed for the Northeast Ohio 208 plan that refers to water resource areas determined by the 208 planning process to warrant additional protective measures to be implemented by local governments.

Designated Management Agency - See **Management Agency**.

Designated Planning Agency - See **Areawide Planning Agency**.

Facility Planning Area - A discrete geographical planning area of sufficient scope to allow for an analysis of various alternatives for the treatment and disposal of wastewater.

Farmland Preservation - Refers to land use and zoning measures, tax incentives and other public policies designed to facilitate the retention of agricultural land for agricultural production, particularly adjoining urban areas.

Flood Plain - A watercourse and the areas adjoining a watercourse which periodically will be covered by flood waters.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement - A treaty between the United States and Canada first established in 1972 which established goals and bi-national institutional arrangements for restoring and preserving the water quality of the Great Lakes.

Home Sewage Disposal System - Devices for the treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater, usually from a single household.

Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling - Computer-assisted method of predicting the amount and timing of stream flow in a stream channel given different levels of precipitation and alternative land use scenarios.

Infill Development - Refers to land use and zoning measures, tax incentives and other public policies designed to facilitate the utilization of undeveloped urban land particularly where public investments in infrastructure exist to support that development.

Land Conservancy Programs - A Land Conservancy or Land Trust is a non-profit organization established to protect land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. This is accomplished through first-hand involvement in land management by: a) Accepting donations of land; b) Accepting donations of conservation easements; c) Purchase of **conservation easements**; d) Purchase of land; and e) Actual on-site monitoring of land to protect its use. Land Conservancies work closely with local government agencies, planning groups, other conservation organizations. They may focus their efforts in a local area, regional area, a particular type of resource, or a specific protection project. Resources protected may be forests, prairie grasslands, marshes, ranch land, scenic vistas, cultural landscapes, historic sites, or hiking trails. They depend on volunteer leadership and support, even if they have a professional staff. They bring together a wide range of people within a community such as: naturalists, planners, farmers, hunters, landowners, community leaders, developers, and other interested parties.

Linked-Deposit Program - The objective of this Ohio EPA administered program is to use Water Pollution Control Loan Fund monies (see **State Revolving Loan Fund**) to invest in local lending institutions which are linked to low interest rate loans to individuals who seek to implement approved nonpoint source management practices. Loans are issued directly by local banks to individual landowners to cover the cost of approved practices. The loan rate is reduced by three percentage points below market conditions by the lending institution. Ohio EPA, in turn, agrees to

accept an interest rate which is three per cent less than market rates interest on its deposit. Many agricultural practices including crop production and animal waste management practices, on-site wastewater treatment system upgrades, and storm water management controls are currently eligible. Ohio EPA continues to expand the list of eligible projects for controlling nonpoint source pollution. The program requires the completion of a watershed management plan that identifies needed nonpoint source controls and provides for targeted implementation. These plans are usually developed by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed in concert with the County Agricultural and Cooperative Extension Agents.

Management Agency - An existing or newly created local, regional, or state agency or political subdivision designated by the governor, in consultation with the regional planning agency and affected local governments, as having adequate authority to carry out specific water quality programs and responsibilities.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - The designation under the federal transportation act of a regional agency whose responsibilities are to develop and administer long range multi-modal transportation plans for a metropolitan area. NOACA is the MPO for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties. AMATS is the MPO for Summit and Portage Counties.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit - Established by the Clean Water Act of 1972, the program imposes effluent limitations and monitoring requirements on point source dischargers, which may include municipal, private and industrial sources. The NPDES permits may contain compliance schedules to ensure construction of facilities needed to achieve the required effluent limitations.

Nature Works Grants - State grants administered by ODNR for parks, stream banking and boating facilities. The stream banking program is administered through the Division of Soil and Water for riparian zone protection.

NOACA's Long Range Transportation Plan - NOACA's current plan, *A Framework for Action 2025* adopted in 1999, outlines long range and short range plans for developing northeast Ohio's transportation infrastructure over the next twenty five years. This plan is a requirement of federal transportation law and helps to guide federal aid investments in surface transportation.

Nonpoint Source Pollution - Water Pollution that results from a variety of human land use practices, such as agriculture, surface mines, forestry, home wastewater treatment systems, construction sites, and urban yards and roadways. As a result, nonpoint source pollution is controllable by implementing land management practices that protect water quality and economic, social and political interests. These practices are often referred to as best management practices.

Northeast Ohio 208 Plan Study Area - The area designated by the governor to be NOACA's

responsibility for 208 water quality management planning which includes the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina and those portions of Summit and Portage Counties that are within the Lake Erie Drainage Basin.

Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund - A fund established in 1990 by the Ohio General Assembly by enactment of Substitute House Bill 804. The intended use of these funds is to award grants that will help the State of Ohio protect and enhance Lake Erie through support of research, monitoring, demonstration and education projects.

Ohio Water Quality Standards - The rules set forth in Chapter 3745-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code establish stream use designations and water quality criteria (scientifically derived ambient concentrations developed by the state) that are protective of the surface waters of the state.

Part 503 Sewage Sludge Regulations - Federal regulations that focus on the ultimate use or disposal of sewage sludge generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works, addressing such practices as the land application, the distribution and marketing of sludge in sludge-only incinerators, and the disposal of sludge in sludge-only landfills.

Phase II of the NPDES Storm Water Permits Program - Rules recently promulgated by USEPA which will require municipalities in urban areas to implement a series of measures to control polluted runoff from separate storm sewer systems.

Point Source Pollution - Any discernable, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or can be discharged.

Regional Resource Waters - A term developed for the Northeast Ohio 208 plan that refers to stream segments and associated watershed areas determined by the 208 planning process to warrant additional protective measures to be implemented by local governments.

Remedial Action Plans - Established by the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 with the goal of addressing coordinated cleanup and control of phosphorous and eutrophication of the Great Lakes. The International Joint Commission, a binational organization of the U.S. and Canada, identified 43 **areas of concern** in the Great Lakes Basin. These areas were targeted for grassroots community cleanup projects. In Ohio, there are ongoing RAPs on the Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Black and Maumee rivers. These projects have been extremely successful and are sustained by local involvement.

Riparian Buffer - A riparian buffer refers to a “green corridor” along the banks of a river or stream that separates water bodies from developed land uses and is intended to provide protection from the

harmful impacts of such uses on water quality.

Riparian Zone - An ecological term that refers to the habitat adjacent to a river or stream that functions to support and enhance aquatic and terrestrial communities who are dependent on the river or stream.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow - A sanitary sewer overflow is the location where municipal wastes are discharged to streams during rainfall events when the increased amount of flow cannot be carried by the sanitary sewer system to the wastewater treatment plant.

Section 208 Plan - Section 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that Water Quality Management (WQM) plans be prepared by states and designated areawide agencies. While Ohio EPA is the lead agency in administering the CWA, six areawide water quality planning agencies, including NOACA, are designated by the state to develop WQM plans for their respective regions. The focus of the WQM is to plan for the management of future water quality by local public jurisdictions and agencies. Also see **Clean Water 2000**.

Section 208 Plan Consistency Review - A procedure whereby plans for future wastewater treatment facilities are determined to be consistent with the areawide water quality management plan. Potential issues include facility planning area boundary coordination and population projections employed.

Section 401 Certification - A state (Ohio EPA) certification required by the Clean Water Act for any activity which discharges dredged or fill materials into the waters, including wetlands, of the United States whereby the State identifies that water quality standards will not be violated by the subject activity. A Section 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is also required for these activities. If Ohio EPA does not issue a 401 permit, the Corps may not issue a 404 permit. There are a number of activities involving "de minimis" (negligible) discharges which are covered by general permits.

Section 404 Permit - See "Section 401 Certification".

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Demonstration Grants - The CWA requires each state to develop a nonpoint source state management program, which includes identification of best management practices; and provide technical assistance to the public and other agencies. A limited amount of federal funding is available for nonpoint source pollution control projects. Applications are first reviewed by Ohio EPA and then forwarded to U.S. EPA for final review and approval.

Section 305(b) Report - A biennial water quality report is required of each state by the CWA. The report, which is also referred to as the Water Resource Inventory, evaluates the water quality of all navigable waters of the state, and identifies which water bodies are meeting use attainments as

defined by the state's water quality standards. The 305(b) report is a summary of monitoring information collected from technical support documents and other monitoring information.

Sentinel species - Species of animal, bird or reptile used as an ecosystem indicator of toxic effects.

Septage Disposal Plan - A comprehensive plan for the final disposal of septage which is the waste material pumped from individual home sewage disposal systems.

State Revolving Fund Loan - This is a program established by the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act which provides for low interest loans for improvements to publicly owned wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities. A portion of these loans are also available to support certain best management practices for control of nonpoint sources of pollution.

Storm Water Runoff - Includes snow melt runoff, water runoff from storms and surface runoff and drainage.

Storm Water Management Ordinances - These are local programs designed to control the quantity and rate of runoff from developed or developing sites.

Stream-banking Programs - A method of preserving stream banks through the implementation of a strategy of targeted land acquisition and conservation easements.

Stream Morphology - Physical characteristics of a stream channel including size, shape, flow patterns, and the like.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) - A TMDL is the amount of pollutant that can be assimilated by a water body without a violation of a water quality standards, and includes wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and a margin of safety.

Urban Stream Restoration Plan - A term developed for the Northeast Ohio 208 plan that refers to a strategy for developing community goals and implementing programs in heavily impacted urban streams determined by the 208 planning process to warrant additional protective measures to be implemented by local governments.

Use Attainability Analysis - A "Use Attainability Analysis" considers all pertinent biological, chemical, and physical attributes of a water body to determine the uses that can be reasonably attained by that body when all applicable laws and regulations are met by entities that discharge pollutants to the body. See **Water Quality Use Designations**.

Wastewater Treatment Facility - Facilities designed to remove disease causing organisms and other pollutants from wastewater before its release back to the environment.

Water Quality Management Plan - See **Section 208 Plan**.

Water Quality Use Designations - The designation of surface waters and specification of a set of water quality standards for the purpose of protecting their use. Generally, water use classification includes: public water supply; recreation; warm water habitat; propagation of fish and other aquatic life; agricultural use and industrial use. Use designations are defined in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-1-07. Water bodies are assigned use designations in OAC rules 3745-1-08 to 3745-1-32. Those rules specifically list water bodies and their assigned use designations that have been determined as appropriate after being analyzed by Ohio EPA according to approved methods.

Watershed - The area drained by a river or stream.

Watershed Stewardship Programs - Refers to programs aimed at building owner, homeowner and community involvement in stream monitoring, protection and/or restoration activities.

Watershed Trading - strategy of shifting pollution reduction responsibilities between contributing sources of pollution within a watershed.

Wellhead Protection - A program to prevent contamination of the ground water used for public drinking water. A wellhead protection plan consists of three steps: (1) determining the area contributing water to a public well or wellfield; (2) inventorying the potential pollution sources in the wellhead protection area; and (3) developing a management strategy to prevent, detect, and remediate ground water contamination.