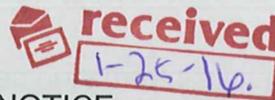


Date of Public Notice: January 22, 2016

Cuyahoga County



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF 401 APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water (DSW) has received an application for, and has begun to consider whether to issue or deny, a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for a project to dredge and manage sediments excavated from the federal navigation channels of Cleveland Harbor, including the Cuyahoga River, Old River, Lake Approach Channels, and Outer Harbor Channels, in order to maintain sufficient depth for deep-draft commercial vessels. The application was submitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. The project is located along the Cuyahoga River, Old River Channel and in the Cleveland Harbor. The Buffalo District Corps of Engineers Public Notice Number for this project is Cleveland-16. The Ohio EPA ID Number for this project is 154844.

As required by the Antidegradation Rule, 3745-1-05, of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), three alternatives have been submitted for the project. The applicant's proposed preferred alternative, if approved, would entail the dredging of an estimated 375,000 cubic yards of material in 2016, with the placement of 195,000 cubic yards of the dredged material at the existing Cleveland Harbor CDFs and 180,000 cubic yards at a new open-lake area in Lake Erie (CLA-1). The applicant's proposed minimal degradation alternative, if approved, would entail the dredging of an estimated 225,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Federal navigation channels in 2016, with the placement of 45,000 cubic yards dredged material at the existing Cleveland Harbor CDF 10B and 180,000 cubic yards at a new open-lake area in Lake Erie (CLA-1). The applicant's proposed non-degradation alternative, if approved, would have no direct impacts on waters of the state.

Discharges from the activity, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. Ohio EPA will review the application, and decide whether to grant or deny the application, in accordance with OAC Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-32. In accordance with OAC rule 3745-1-05, an antidegradation review of the application will be conducted before deciding whether to allow a lowering of water quality. All three proposed alternatives will be considered during the review process. No exclusions or waivers, as outlined by OAC rule 3745-1-05, apply or may be granted.

Starting January 22, 2016, copies of the application and technical support information may be inspected on Ohio EPA-DSW website:

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/permitting.aspx>

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and public hearing relative to issues of lower water quality on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek, 2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH 44134. The public hearing will end when all interested parties have had an opportunity to provide testimony related to the project.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented and give written or oral comments on the proposed project. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain additional information that will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to any further action on the application.

Ohio EPA will continue to accept written comments on the application through the close of business on March 17, 2016. Comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the official record of the hearing. Anyone may submit written comments or requests to be placed on a mailing list for information by writing to: Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.