

Mercury Pollutant Minimization Program (PMP)

Background

The City of Port Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is currently unable to comply with the monthly average discharge concentration limit of 1.5 ng/l without construction of expensive end-of-pipe controls. The WWTP is able to achieve an annual average mercury concentration of 12 ng/l or less. Therefore, the City applied for and received a general mercury variance from the Ohio EPA in 2011. The NPDES discharge permit and the mercury variance were renewed in 2017.

Required Actions

One of the conditions of the mercury variance is for the City to make reasonable progress towards the goal of meeting the water quality based effluent limits at the WWTP for mercury. To accomplish this, the City is required to continue implementing a PMP.

Elements of the PMP include:

- A control strategy to locate, identify and monitor sources of mercury; where cost-effective, reduce or eliminate sources
- Develop and implement a multi-year plan of study (POS)
- Annual program progress reports

As part of the effort to continue implementing the POS, the City is increasing its public outreach through education and information sharing via the City's website and Facebook page.

By implementing the POS and meeting the conditions of the NPDES discharge permit, the City continues to be in compliance with the mercury PMP requirements. The City has been proactive in monitoring the collection system and treatment plant attempting to locate sources. With the community's continued assistance, we can continue to improve and protect Lake Erie and tributaries, a most valuable resource.