January 28, 2010

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet For

General Permit to Install
Land Application of Hydro-demolition Wastewater

I. Background

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and its contractors perform important maintenance on Ohio roads every year. Part of this maintenance involves the resurfacing of concrete bridge decks. A widely used method of preparing bridge decks for restoration is called hydro-demolition. Hydro-demolition is a process in which high pressure jets of water are used to remove concrete surfaces. The process produces a wastewater which is high in solids and which can have a high pH.

The Ohio EPA has elected to issue a statewide general permit in compliance with the Ohio Water Pollution Control Act (Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111) to cover projects where the wastewater will be land-applied to state of Ohio rights-of-way. The permit will not allow discharges to surface waters. This permit will provide a cost-effective method for allowing ODOT and its contractors to dispose of wastewater in an environmentally protective manner.

It is important to note that requesting coverage under this General Permit is optional, and applicants may still apply for an individual PTI. Also, any projects that do not meet the criteria in the General Permit must apply for an individual PTI. Application for an individual PTI will remain the same.

II. Description of General Permit Coverage

This permit covers the land application of hydro-demolition wastewater to state of Ohio rights-of-way. Each submittal for coverage under the general PTI is limited to projects covering 2,000 linear feet of bridge deck. Projects which encompass more than 2,000 linear feet of bridge deck will require multiple submittals for coverage under the general permit.

This permit does not cover the following:

- Projects discharging hydro-demolition wastewater to waters of the State.
- Hydro-demolition projects where the hydro-demolition wastewater is mixed with any other wastewater streams that are not hydro-demolition wastewater or storm water.
- Hydro-demolition projects used for purposes besides bridge deck restoration.

III. Required Notice of Intent Information

To ensure that approvable notices of intent are submitted, Ohio EPA proposes to require the following forms/information in the Notice of Intent for this general permit:

- The appropriate application fees, pursuant to ORC Section 3745.11;
- One copy of a complete and accurate Notice of Intent (NOI) signed by the Applicant;
- Land application plan developed by a professional engineer;
- Schematic diagram developed by a professional engineer.

IV. Ohio EPA DSW Review Procedure

The DSW review of NOI's submitted for this general permit will focus on ensuring that enough land is available for the assimilation of the expected amount of wastewater produced by the project. The District Office will receive the NOI. The District Office will complete any reviews and send to the Permits Processing Unit in Central Office. If there is a problem with the NOI application, the district will summarize the problems with the application and draft a withdrawal letter that the district will issue to the applicant. The withdrawal letter allows the applicant to choose to submit the proper forms for a full review, or submit a letter asking for withdrawal of their current application and submit a new NOI application with the appropriate fees. If the applicant does not act upon the incomplete notice letter within three (3) weeks of its issue date, the application will be processed for denial. Once it is determined that an authorization may be issued based on information contained in the NOI or otherwise available to the Ohio EPA, Central Office will then issue an authorization to proceed with the land application of hydro-demolition wastewater. The entire review process and issue of the permit authorization should generally take 30 days to complete. This number may go down once the review process is fully determined.