

FOR RELEASE: April 21, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Heidi Griesmer, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

Waste and Cleanup Programs at Ohio EPA Combine for Improved Efficiency

To improve efficiency and save money, Ohio EPA is consolidating three waste divisions into two. The Agency will save \$475,000 per year through the consolidation, which takes effect April 18.

"I am continually looking for ways to help the Agency become more efficient and provide better customer service," said Ohio EPA Director Scott J. Nally. "Although this reorganization will save money, our customers will continue to receive a level of service that exceeds expectations."

The Division of Emergency and Remedial Response (DERR), Hazardous Waste Management (DHWM) and Solid and Infectious Waste Management (DSIWM) are being consolidated into two divisions with new names. The Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR) will absorb functions related to cleanup at permitted hazardous waste facilities. The Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM) will absorb hazardous waste permitting and regulatory functions.

DMWM will oversee the proper handling of wastes and promote reuse and recycling of materials and waste generated in Ohio. The division now provides the following services:

- issue permits to regulate hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities;
- issue permits, licenses and or registrations to regulate:
 - solid waste disposal facilities,
 - solid waste transfer facilities,
 - composting facilities,
 - scrap tire facilities and transporters,
 - construction and demolition disposal landfills,
 - infectious waste treatment facilities,
 - infectious waste generators and transporters;
- oversee state and local planning for long-term solid waste management;
- inspect hazardous waste generators and facilities subject to permits, registrations and licenses;
- use fees collected from the sale of new tires to clean up scrap tire dumps;
- use penalty money to address environmental problems at abandoned and orphaned waste sites; and
- provide technical support to regulated entities, health departments and citizens.

The clean-up programs have moved into DERR. This division now provides the following services:

- voluntary cleanups;
- brownfields revitalization;
- closure and corrective action at sites regulated by hazardous waste permits;
- federal facilities cleanup;
- state remedial cleanup;
- emergency response;
- Superfund cleanups; and
- site assessment and field sampling.

The \$475,000 annual savings comes from eliminating the chief, assistant chief, fiscal officer and administrative assistant vacancies in DHWM.

Ohio EPA websites and guidance documents are being updated to reflect these changes.