

Ohio Signage at NPDES Outfalls

EPA-ECOS-Sponsored Compliance
Research Webinar Series

September 12, 2018

Ohio EPA Signage Rule

- Ohio Administrative Code 3745-33-08(A)(12)
 - Including language in NPDES permits prior to rule development
 - Rule effective late 2006
 - Ohio has typically provided a compliance schedule of 4 months to install signs

Permit Standard Language

- The permittee shall maintain a permanent marker on the stream bank **at each outfall** that is regulated **under this NPDES permit**.....This includes **process wastewater, non-contact cooling, sewage outfalls, bypasses, and combined sewer overflows**. The marker shall consist at a minimum of the **name of the establishment** to which the permit was issued, the **Ohio EPA permit number**, and the **outfall number** and a contact **telephone number**.
- The information shall be printed in letters not less than two inches in height. The marker shall be a minimum of **2 feet by 2 feet** and shall be a minimum of **3 feet above ground level**.....

Outfall Signage



NOTICE: CSO 123

Combined Sewer Overflow

Untreated storm water and sewage may discharge **during and after rainfall**. May contain harmful bacteria.

METROPOLITAN
SEWER DISTRICT
of greater
CINCINNATI
513-352-4900
www.MSDGC.org



OEPA
Permit:
1PX00022



Signs Foster Compliance?

Pros:

- Provides us something to verify during inspections
- Useful when conducting river surveys
- Removes anonymity from the discharge pipe (passive compliance)
- Helps the public report problems
- Intended purpose to inform public using the waterway about the outfall or discharge

Cons:

- Possibility of enforcement for noncompliance
- Installation Cost and Maintenance
- Some outfalls are not accessible to the public

Ohio EPA e-Reporting History

- SWIMware – 1998
 - Client-Based system
 - Zip file that was emailed
- e-DMR – 2007
 - Web-Based system
- e-DMR reporting mandatory – 2008
- There is an off-ramp for mandatory electronic reporting

NPDES Frequency Violation Summary (2000-present)

