



City of Lima, Ohio

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David J. Berger, Mayor

AGREEMENT ON CLEAN WATER ACT INTEGRATED PLAN FOR LIMA, OHIO

November 19, 2014

The City of Lima, Ohio, the United States, and the State of Ohio today filed a landmark consent decree in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. The decree allows Lima substantial flexibility in implementing its integrated plan, including wastewater treatment plant upgrades, combined sewer overflow (CSO) controls, and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) controls, over the next 24 years. This filing initiates a 30-day comment period. Should no comments be received objecting to the agreement, the US Department of Justice will file a motion asking the court to make the agreement final and effective.

Decree Basics

- Wastewater treatment plant peak wet weather treatment capacity expansion by July 1, 2018
- CSO controls to reduce overflows to 5 or fewer in a typical year by August 30, 2024
- Development and implementation of comprehensive capacity, management, operation, and maintenance (CMOM) plan to prevent dry weather SSOs
- Long-term sewer system asset management plan
- Strategic sewer separation projects
- SSO controls to prevent wet weather overflows from the 25-year storm in 3 basins by December 31, 2032
- SSO controls to prevent wet weather overflows from the 5-year storm in 4 basins by April 1, 2038
- \$150 million estimated cost of integrated plan activities (including treatment plant, CSO, SSO, stormwater and asset management costs)
- Supplemental environmental project – spending \$218,400 to plant trees along Ottawa River banks
- \$49,000 total civil penalty

Integrated Planning Highlights

- Integration of wastewater treatment, CSO, SSO and other projects
- Control activities prioritized based on environmental and human health benefits
- Consideration of all community Clean Water Act obligations, including wastewater, stormwater, and asset management costs

Future Flexibility

- Ability to modify decree if equal or better environmental results can be achieved through adaptive management
- Ability to incorporate green infrastructure
- Ability to modify decree (control measures and schedule) for economic reasons:
 - Significant cost increases
 - Increased costs as a percentage of median household income
 - Economic conditions and trends, such as service area poverty levels
 - Unemployment data and trends
 - Population data and trends
 - Changes in service area size or realignment
 - Revenue data and trends, including changes such as water conservation efforts
 - Account base data and trends, including closure of major industrial or institutional accounts
 - Changes in wastewater operational costs
 - New Clean Water Act obligations, such as those required by a TMDL or NPDES permit changes
 - Any other financial or budgetary issues

