OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 9 – POTABLE WATER SUPPLY

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ENSURE THAT A SAFE SUPPLY OF WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE, COMMUNITY, INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL USES ALONG LAKE ERIE BY:

A. ADMINISTERING THE STATE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (O.R.C. CHAPTER 6109);

B. SUPERVISING THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (O.R.C. 6109.07); AND

C. REGULATING PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS (O.R.C. 3701.344, O.A.C. 3701-28)

Authorities and Administration

A. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is the principal water quality regulatory agency over public water systems in Ohio and is the state administrator of P.L. 93-523, the Safe Drinking Water Act and its Amendments 42 U.S.C. 300(f) et seq. Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters derives its authority from the State Safe Drinking Water Act, O.R.C. Chapter 6109. The statute does not apply to public water systems that meet all of the following criteria:

1. Consist only of distribution and storage facilities and do not have any collection and treatment facilities;

2. Obtain all of their water from, but are not owned or operated by, a public water system;

3. Do not sell water to any person; and

4. Are not carriers that convey passengers in interstate commerce.

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters oversees compliance with and monitoring of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for public drinking water. Primary standards have been established for contaminants, including toxic chemicals, that have been shown to directly affect the health of consumers (O.A.C. 3745-81). Secondary standards have been established for contaminants that may cause economic or aesthetic impacts but that have not been shown to directly affect the health of consumers (O.A.C. 3745-82). Additional treatment is required if any contaminant exceeds a primary standard. All new public water systems, and existing systems making changes in their source of water, must provide treatment to meet the secondary standards for iron and manganese if they would otherwise exceed the secondary standards. Public water systems are encouraged to meet the other secondary standards. Appropriate enforcement actions are taken for failure to meet requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

B. The Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters reviews plans and issues plan approval for construction or substantial improvement of public water systems. Installation of or substantial changes to a water system requires the approval of Ohio EPA based on requirements of the State Safe Drinking Water Act and the rules adopted thereunder.

The division also has primary responsibility for on-site survey inspections of public water systems and maintains a laboratory certification program for commercial, private, state and industrial facilities conducting biological and/or chemical analysis on potable water.

C. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and local health departments regulate private water supply systems in accordance with rules promulgated by the Public Health Council of the State of Ohio (O.R.C. 3701.344, O.A.C. 3701-28). Those water systems that regularly serve fewer than 15 service connections and do not regularly serve an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year are subject to regulation. A private water supply system includes any well, spring, cistern, pond or hauled water. In the event that the Director of ODH determines that a public health district is not properly enforcing the private water system rules, ODH will enforce the private water supply system program in that district. The ODH also investigates private water supply systems for potential contamination at the request of the local health department. Additionally, the ODH implements and enforces the registration of private water systems contractors (O.R.C. 3701.344, O.A.C. 3701-28).