OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 41 – WATER MANAGEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE WATER RESOURCES INFORMATION TO PROMOTE WATER RESOURCES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT BY:

A. REQUIRING LARGE WATER WITHDRAWAL FACILITIES TO REGISTER THEIR CAPACITY AND SUBMIT ANNUAL WITHDRAWAL REPORTS (O.R.C. 1521.16);

B. REQUIRING THE FILING OF WELL LOGS AND WELL-SEALING REPORTS (O.R.C. 1521.05);

C. PREPARING WATER SUPPLY PLANS;

D. PREPARING A LONG-TERM WATER RESOURCES PLAN FOR THE LAKE ERIE DRAINAGE BASIN;

E. PREPARING TECHNICAL STUDIES AND MAPPING, DESIGNATING GROUND WATER STRESS AREAS, AND ASSISTING IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION (O.R.C. 1521.03(E) AND 1521.16(B)); AND

F. PARTICIPATING WITH THE OTHER GREAT LAKES STATES AND PROVINCES IN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT OF GREAT LAKES BASIN WATER RESOURCES.

Authorities and Administration

A. ODNR's Division of Water administers a water withdrawal facility registration program for water withdrawal facilities with a capacity of more than 100,000 gallons per day, O.R.C. 1521.16. Facilities must be registered within three months of completion and shall file an annual report with the Division of Water listing the amount of water withdrawn and other data. The registration and reporting of these water uses allows the state to identify the sources of water withdrawal, the types of uses, and the distribution of withdrawals and uses statewide. This information is critical for the proper development and management of water supplies and to assist in the investigation and resolution of water use conflicts.

B. Any person who constructs or seals a well as defined in O.R.C. 1521.01(B) is required to keep a careful and accurate log of the construction or sealing and to file a well log or well-sealing report with the Division of Water, ODNR, for each well (O.R.C.1521.05).

C. ODNR's Division of Water, under authority of O.R.C. 1521.03(B), collects and analyzes data and develops water supply plans for communities, upon request. The division, in cooperation

with Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, assesses the state's water supply situation on a regional or site-specific basis and formulates immediate and long-term recommendations for community water supply source development. In formulating these recommendations, the use of Lake Erie water is considered an alternative to the development of inland sources and is recommended when it is the least-cost solution for users within the Lake Erie drainage basin.

D. ODNR's Division of Water is required to develop a long-term water resources plan for the Lake Erie drainage basin (O.R.C. 1521.15). The plan is to include an inventory of surface and groundwater resources; an assessment of existing uses and future demand for withdrawals, diversions and consumptive uses; guidelines to minimize consumptive use; and guidelines and procedures to coordinate, conserve, develop, protect, use and manage the water resources of the Lake Erie drainage basin. The plan will serve, in part, as the basis for decisions on permit applications for water diversions.

E. Using the information on the well logs, the division produces county ground water resource maps that generally describe the expected ground water yields throughout the county. The division has the authority to assist in resolving ground water conflicts by conducting investigations, issuing a report of findings and recommendations, and holding public meetings or hearings (O.R.C. 1521.03(E)). The division responds to requests for ground water information and provides technical assistance to the public and to local, state, and federal agencies. The chief of the division also has the authority to designate a Ground Water Stress Area (O.R.C. ϶ 1521.16(B)), which will provide more detailed information on uses of ground water.

F. As a part of the Great Lakes Charter, the Great Lakes states and provinces made a commitment to develop a basin water resource management program to "guide future development, management and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin." The framework for this basin water resource management program is similar to that of the long-term water resources plan in O.R.C. 1521.15. ODNR's Division of Water, in conjunction with its work on the Lake Erie basin plan, will coordinate with the Great Lakes states and provinces on the basin water resources management program. As with Ohio's Lake Erie basin plan, the basin water resource management plan is to serve as the basis for decisions on applications for water diversions.

The Great Lakes states and provinces have developed the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Data Base. The Great Lakes Commission is the repository for the data. Each year states and provinces are to submit data on prescribed forms. A technical committee has been established to maintain and refine the protocol for reporting and compiling data.