

AN ACT

To amend sections 903.08 and 6111.04 and to enact section 6111.451 of the Revised Code to make changes to the national pollutant discharge elimination system program with respect to concentrated animal feeding facilities, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt rules specifying certain construction activities that may be conducted prior to approval of plans for a treatment or disposal works under the Water Pollution Control Law, and to establish the Preconstruction Rules Working Group for the purpose of developing the rules.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That sections 903.08 and 6111.04 be amended and section 6111.451 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 903.08. (A)(1) The director of agriculture is authorized to participate in the national pollutant discharge elimination system in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Not later than one hundred eighty days after March 15, 2001, the director shall prepare a state program in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 123.21 for point sources that are subject to this section and shall submit the program to the United States environmental protection agency for approval.

(2) On and after the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the state program submitted under division (A)(1) of this section, the authority to enforce terms and conditions of NPDES permits previously issued under division (J) of section 6111.03 or under section 6111.035 of the Revised Code for the discharging, transporting, or handling of storm water from an animal feeding facility or of manure is transferred from the director of environmental protection to the director of agriculture. Thereafter, the director of environmental protection shall have no authority to enforce the terms and conditions of those NPDES permits. After the transfer of authority under division (A)(2) of this section,

the NPDES permits concerning which authority has been transferred shall be considered to have been issued under this section.

(B)(1) On and after the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under this section, no person shall discharge manure from a point source into waters of the state without first obtaining a NPDES permit issued by the director of agriculture under this section. ~~The owner or operator of a concentrated animal feeding operation~~ Any person that is required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to obtain a permit for the discharge of manure shall apply to the director for an individual NPDES permit or for coverage under a general NPDES permit. A concentrated animal feeding operation is deemed to be a point source that discharges manure into the waters of the state unless the director has determined that the concentrated animal feeding operation has no potential to discharge manure into the waters of the state. If an owner or operator of a concentrated animal feeding operation receives notice from the director that the director has determined that the concentrated animal feeding operation has no potential to discharge manure, the owner or operator is not required to apply for an individual NPDES permit or for coverage under a general NPDES permit for that operation. The director's determination shall be made in accordance with rules The director is authorized to issue, revoke, modify, or deny such an individual permit or issue, revoke, or deny coverage under a general permit in compliance with all requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Violation of division (B)(1) of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance for purposes of state enforcement of this section.

(2) Persons that have been issued a permit by the director of environmental protection under division (J) of section 6111.03 of the Revised Code for the discharge of manure prior to the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under this section may continue to operate under that permit until it expires or is modified or revoked. Such a permit shall be enforced by the director of agriculture upon the transfer of authority to enforce the terms and conditions of the permit under division (A)(2) of this section.

(C)(1) On and after the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under this section, no person shall discharge storm water resulting from an animal feeding facility without first obtaining a NPDES permit issued by the director of agriculture in accordance with rules when

such a permit is required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Violation of division (C)(1) of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance for purposes of state enforcement of this section.

(2) Persons that have been issued a NPDES permit by the director of environmental protection under Chapter 6111. of the Revised Code for the discharge of storm water from an animal feeding facility prior to the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under this section may continue to operate under that permit until it expires or is modified or revoked. Such a permit shall be enforced by the director of agriculture upon the transfer of authority to enforce the terms and conditions of the permit under division (A)(2) of this section.

(D) In accordance with rules, an applicant for a NPDES permit issued under this section shall submit a fee in an amount established by rule together with, except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this section, an application for the permit to the director of agriculture on a form prescribed by the director. The application shall include any information required by rule. The director or the director's authorized representative may help an applicant for a NPDES permit during the application process by providing guidance and technical assistance.

(E) The director of agriculture shall issue NPDES permits in accordance with this section and section 903.09 of the Revised Code. The director shall deny an application for a NPDES permit if any of the following applies:

(1) The application contains misleading or false information.

(2) The administrator of the United States environmental protection agency objects in writing to the issuance of the NPDES permit in accordance with section 402(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(3) The director determines that the proposed discharge or source would conflict with an areawide waste treatment management plan adopted in accordance with section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Additional grounds for the denial of a NPDES permit shall be those established in this chapter and rules.

(F) To the extent consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the director of agriculture shall issue general NPDES permits that will apply in lieu of individual NPDES permits for categories of point sources for which the director determines that all of the following apply:

(1) Any discharges authorized by a general permit will have only minimal cumulative adverse effects on the environment when the discharges are considered collectively and individually.

(2) The discharges are more appropriately authorized by a general

permit than by an individual permit.

(3) Each category of point sources satisfies the criteria established in rules.

A person who is required to obtain a NPDES permit shall submit to the director a notice of the person's intent to be covered under an existing general permit or, at the person's option, an application for an individual NPDES permit. Upon receipt of a notice of intent for coverage under an existing general permit, the director shall notify the applicant in writing that the person is covered by the general permit if the person satisfies the criteria established in rules for eligibility for such coverage. If the person is ineligible for coverage under the general permit, the director shall require the submission of an application for an individual NPDES permit.

(G) The director of agriculture shall establish terms and conditions of NPDES permits in accordance with rules. Terms and conditions shall be designed to achieve and maintain full compliance with national effluent limitations, national standards of performance for new sources, the most current water quality standards adopted under section 6111.041 of the Revised Code, the most current antidegradation policy adopted under section 6111.12 of the Revised Code, and other requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. In establishing the terms and conditions of a NPDES permit, the director, to the extent consistent with that act, shall consider technical feasibility and economic costs and shall allow a reasonable period of time for coming into compliance with the permit.

(H) An animal feeding facility that is required to obtain both a NPDES permit and a permit to operate shall be issued a single permit to operate incorporating the terms and conditions established by both permits. The permit to operate expressly shall designate the terms and conditions required under the NPDES program as federally enforceable. All other provisions are enforceable under state law only and expressly shall be designated accordingly.

(I) A NPDES permit may be issued under this section for a period not to exceed five years.

(J) A NPDES permit issued under this section may be renewed. An application for renewal of a NPDES permit shall be submitted to the director of agriculture at least one hundred eighty days prior to the expiration date of the permit and shall comply with the requirements governing applications for NPDES permits established under this section and by rule.

(K)(1) No person shall make any false statement, representation, or certification in an application for a NPDES permit or in any form, notice, or report required to be submitted to the director pursuant to terms and

conditions established in a NPDES permit issued under this section.

(2) No person shall render inaccurate any monitoring method or device that is required under the terms and conditions of a NPDES permit issued under this section.

(L) The director may modify, suspend, or revoke a NPDES permit issued under this section for cause as established by rule. No NPDES permit issued under this section shall be modified, suspended, or revoked without a written order stating the findings that led to the modification, suspension, or revocation. In addition, the permittee has a right to an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, except that section 119.12 of the Revised Code does not apply. Further, an order of the director modifying, suspending, or revoking a NPDES permit may be appealed to the environmental review appeals commission under sections 3745.04 to 3745.06 of the Revised Code.

(M)(1) No person shall violate any effluent limitation established by rule.

(2) No person shall violate any other provision of a NPDES permit issued under this section.

(3) Compliance with a NPDES permit issued under this section constitutes compliance with this section.

(N) This section, including the state program authorized in division (A)(1) of this section, shall be administered in a manner consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Sec. 6111.04. (A) Both of the following apply except as otherwise provided in division (A) or (F) of this section:

(1) No person shall cause pollution or place or cause to be placed any sewage, sludge, sludge materials, industrial waste, or other wastes in a location where they cause pollution of any waters of the state.

(2) Such an action prohibited under division (A)(1) of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

Divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply if the person causing pollution or placing or causing to be placed wastes in a location in which they cause pollution of any waters of the state holds a valid, unexpired permit, or renewal of a permit, governing the causing or placement as provided in sections 6111.01 to 6111.08 of the Revised Code or if the person's application for renewal of such a permit is pending.

(B) If the director of environmental protection administers a sludge management program pursuant to division (S) of section 6111.03 of the Revised Code, both of the following apply except as otherwise provided in division (B) or (F) of this section:

(1) No person, in the course of sludge management, shall place on land located in the state or release into the air of the state any sludge or sludge materials.

(2) An action prohibited under division (B)(1) of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

Divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply if the person placing or releasing the sludge or sludge materials holds a valid, unexpired permit, or renewal of a permit, governing the placement or release as provided in sections 6111.01 to 6111.08 of the Revised Code or if the person's application for renewal of such a permit is pending.

(C) No person to whom a permit has been issued shall place or discharge, or cause to be placed or discharged, in any waters of the state any sewage, sludge, sludge materials, industrial waste, or other wastes in excess of the permissive discharges specified under an existing permit without first receiving a permit from the director to do so.

(D) No person to whom a sludge management permit has been issued shall place on the land or release into the air of the state any sludge or sludge materials in excess of the permissive amounts specified under the existing sludge management permit without first receiving a modification of the existing sludge management permit or a new sludge management permit to do so from the director.

(E) The director may require the submission of plans, specifications, and other information that the director considers relevant in connection with the issuance of permits.

(F) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Waters used in washing sand, gravel, other aggregates, or mineral products when the washing and the ultimate disposal of the water used in the washing, including any sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes contained in the waters, are entirely confined to the land under the control of the person engaged in the recovery and processing of the sand, gravel, other aggregates, or mineral products and do not result in the pollution of waters of the state;

(2) Water, gas, or other material injected into a well to facilitate, or that is incidental to, the production of oil, gas, artificial brine, or water derived in association with oil or gas production and disposed of in a well, in compliance with a permit issued under Chapter 1509. of the Revised Code, or sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes injected into a well in compliance with an injection well operating permit. Division (F)(2) of this section does not authorize, without a permit, any discharge that is prohibited by, or for which a permit is required by, regulation of the United States

environmental protection agency.

(3) Application of any materials to land for agricultural purposes or runoff of the materials from that application or pollution by animal waste or soil sediment, including attached substances, resulting from farming, silvicultural, or earthmoving activities regulated by Chapter 307. or ~~1515-~~1511. of the Revised Code; Division (F)(3) of this section does not authorize, without a permit, any discharge that is prohibited by, or for which a permit is required by, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or regulations adopted under it.

(4) The excrement of domestic and farm animals defecated on land or runoff therefrom into any waters of the state; Division (F)(4) of this section does not authorize, without a permit, any discharge that is prohibited by, or for which a permit is required by, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or regulations adopted under it.

(5) On and after the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under section 903.08 of the Revised Code, ~~storm water from an animal feeding facility, as defined in section 903.01 of the Revised Code, or manure, as defined in that section~~ any discharge that is within the scope of the approved NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture;

(6) The discharge of sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes into a sewerage system tributary to a treatment works. Division (F)(6) of this section does not authorize any discharge into a publicly owned treatment works in violation of a pretreatment program applicable to the publicly owned treatment works.

(7) A household sewage treatment system or a small flow on-site sewage treatment system, as applicable, as defined in section 3718.01 of the Revised Code that is installed in compliance with Chapter 3718. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it. Division (F)(7) of this section does not authorize, without a permit, any discharge that is prohibited by, or for which a permit is required by, regulation of the United States environmental protection agency.

(8) Exceptional quality sludge generated outside of this state and contained in bags or other containers not greater than one hundred pounds in capacity. As used in division (F)(8) of this section, "exceptional quality sludge" has the same meaning as in division (Y) of section 3745.11 of the Revised Code.

(G) The holder of a permit issued under section 402 (a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act need not obtain a permit for a discharge authorized by the permit until its expiration date. ~~The~~ Except as otherwise

provided in this division, the director of environmental protection shall administer and enforce those permits within this state and may modify their terms and conditions in accordance with division (J) of section 6111.03 of the Revised Code. On and after the date on which the United States environmental protection agency approves the NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture under section 903.08 of the Revised Code, the director of agriculture shall administer and enforce those permits within this state that are issued for any discharge that is within the scope of the approved NPDES program submitted by the director of agriculture.

Sec. 6111.451. Not later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section, the director of environmental protection shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code specifying construction activities that do not, by themselves, constitute installing works for the treatment or disposal of sewage or other waste for which approval of plans is required under section 6111.44 or 6111.45 of the Revised Code. The activities shall include the grading and clearing of land, on-site storage of portable parts and equipment, and the construction of foundations or buildings that are not directly related to the installation of treatment or disposal works. The rules also shall allow specified initial activities that are part of the installation of treatment or disposal works, such as the installation of electrical and other utilities for the works, prior to the approval of the plans for the works, provided that the owner or operator of the works has submitted the complete plans for the works to the director and has notified the director that this activity will be undertaken prior to the approval of the plans. Any activity that is undertaken under the rules adopted under this section shall be at the risk of the owner or operator. The rules adopted under this section, to the extent possible, shall be consistent with rules adopted under division (F)(5) of section 3704.03 of the Revised Code.

SECTION 2. That existing sections 903.08 and 6111.04 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. (A) There is hereby created the Preconstruction Rules Working Group consisting of the following members appointed by the Governor:

- (1) A representative of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation;
- (2) A representative of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association;
- (3) A representative of the Ohio Homebuilders Association;

(4) A representative of a statewide environmental advocacy organization;

(5) A person representing the Ohio utility industry.

(B) The Governor shall make appointments to the Working Group not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Vacancies on the Working Group shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

(C) The Preconstruction Rules Working Group shall work with the Director of Environmental Protection in the development of proposed rules for the purposes of section 6111.451 of the Revised Code as enacted by this act. The proposed rules shall be developed not later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section. The Director then shall proceed to adopt the rules as required by section 6111.451 of the Revised Code. Upon the expiration of the one-hundred-eighty-day period for the development of the proposed rules, the Preconstruction Rules Working Group shall cease to exist.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the
____ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____