



- **Comment Period - Ohio EPA's New Industrial Storm Water General Permit (OHR000006)**
- **OSHA Issues Update to General Industry Walking-Working Surfaces & Fall Protection Standards**
- **Akron to Improve Sewer System Through Funding from Ohio EPA**

#### **Comment Period - Ohio EPA's New Industrial Storm Water General Permit (OHR000006)**

COLUMBUS, OH (Dec. 4, 2016) – Ohio EPA's draft Industrial Storm Water General Permit (OHR000006) has been public noticed for comments. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments upon the General Permit. Comments should be submitted in person or by mail no later than January 16, 2017.

The current NPDES General Permit expires on December 31, 2016. If your company is a permittee of the current Industrial Storm Water General Permit (OHR000005), this coverage will continue until your company receives a renewal notification. Permittees of OHR000005 will have up to 90 days from the receipt of that renewal notice to apply for coverage under OHR000006.

There are a few updates and changes contained within the proposed General Permit including the consolidation of the comprehensive site inspection and routine facility inspection procedures into one set of procedures to eliminate redundancies and reduce burden. Additional changes contained in the proposed Permit are addressed in a factsheet below.

More Information:

[Draft Final General NPDES Permit \(OHR000006\)](#)

[Draft Final General NPDES Permit Fact Sheet \(OHR000006\)](#)

#### **OSHA Issues Update to General Industry Walking-Working Surfaces & Fall Protection Standards**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 17, 2016) – OSHA has issued a final rule updating its general industry Walking-Working Surfaces standards specific to slip, trip, and fall hazards. The rule also includes a new section under the general industry Personal Protective Equipment standards that establishes employer requirements for using personal fall protection systems.

The final rule's most significant update is allowing employers to select the fall protection system that works best for them, choosing from a range of accepted options including personal fall protection systems. OSHA has permitted the use of personal fall protection systems in construction since 1994 and the final rule adopts similar requirements for general industry. Other changes include allowing employers to use rope descent systems up to 300 feet above a lower level; prohibiting the use of body belts as part of a personal fall arrest system; and requiring worker training on personal fall protection systems and fall equipment.

Most of the rule will become effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, but some provisions have delayed effective dates, including:

- Ensuring exposed workers are trained on fall hazards (6 months),
- Ensuring workers who use equipment covered by the final rule are trained (6 months),
- Inspecting and certifying permanent anchorages for rope descent systems (1 year),

- Installing personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems on new fixed ladders over 24 feet and on replacement ladders/ladder sections, including fixed ladders on outdoor advertising structures (2 years),
- Ensuring existing fixed ladders over 24 feet, including those on outdoor advertising structures, are equipped with a cage, well, personal fall arrest system, or ladder safety system (2 years), and
- Replacing cages and wells (used as fall protection) with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems on all fixed ladders over 24 feet (20 years).

More Information:

<https://www.osha.gov>

### **Akron to Improve Sewer System Through Funding from Ohio EPA**

COLUMBUS, OH (Dec. 7, 2016) - Ohio EPA has approved a \$14.68 million loan for the city of Akron to assist in the construction of the Merriman sewer separation project. The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) project will help bring Akron into compliance and improve the water quality of the Cuyahoga River.

Akron will eliminate the city's Rack 36 combined sewer overflow through a full separation of combined sewers in the service area and construction of a storm water detention wetland. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2017.

Created in 1989, WPCLF has provided below-market interest rate loans for communities to improve their sewer systems. The reduced interest rate on the \$14.68 million loan, along with the WRRSP discount will save Akron \$3.8 million.

In addition to sewer system improvements, WPCLF loans have been provided for agricultural best management practices, home sewage system improvements, landfill closures and water quality-based storm water projects. The WPCLF provides technical assistance to public wastewater systems in a variety of areas from planning, design and construction of improvements to enhancing the systems' technical, managerial and financial capacity. WPCLF loans also make possible the restoration and protection of some of Ohio's highest quality water bodies through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program.

More Information:

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/News/>