



WVMWQA Supports ORSANCO's Withdrawal of its Pollution Control Standards April 2018

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is considering withdrawing its Pollution Control Standards (PCS) and focusing its resources on other river-related activities. We think this is an excellent idea and, accordingly, submitted comments in January supporting Expanded Alternative 2, eliminating from the PCS both water quality standards/criteria and mixing zone/wastewater discharge requirements, which are redundant and unnecessary. A summary of those comments is provided below.

- The PCS are redundant and unnecessary to protect the River, given the maturity of the CWA and NPDES Program along with delegated state programs. The CWA requirement that states implement appropriate programs to satisfy CWA requirements (or that EPA step in to do so) ensures more than adequate protection of the Ohio River and rivers nationwide. State delegated programs are comprehensive in both scope and detail.
- The existing framework ensures transparency to the public, from water quality standards development to permitting to their implementation.
- Federal law already requires that upstream discharges comply with downstream state requirements, thus ORSANCO oversight is unnecessary.
- Section 510 of the CWA allows states to be more stringent than federal requirements, so the withdrawal of the PCS will not interfere with any state's ability to impose requirements that are more stringent.
- Participating in ORSANCO rulemakings to update the PCS is a significant burden on citizens' and affected dischargers' time and resources, as these rulemakings are in addition to the state rulemakings to implement CWA requirements.
- The PCS sometimes cause confusion because they are not always consistent with other state and federal requirements, resulting in more work for compact states in keeping track of and implementing these differences.

ORSANCO has [posted](#) all public comments during the comment period. The WVMWQA comments are first on the list. We will update the membership once a decision on whether to eliminate the Pollution Control Standards has been reached.