Weekly report for week ending May 20, 2016

Division Name	Activity	Press Interest/Coverage
Significant Issues		
Water	**Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Office of Water, to View Green Infrastructure in Cincinnati, Ohio** Joel Beauvais will visit Cincinnati on May 17th & 18th to visit Office of Research and Development, and to view and discuss Green Infrastructure and its impacts on watershed and community revitalization.	
Water	**Mayor of Lorain, Ohio Meets with EPA to Discuss Water Quality Improvements** The Mayor of Lorain discussed the City's proposed improvements to its lakefront, the Black River Remedial Action Plan, and its work under an Administrative Order on Consent to remove Sanitary Sewer Overflows with the Water Enforcement Program.	
Water	**City of Cleveland Heights May 13, 2016, Meeting at EPA R5 Offices With EPA, Department of Justice, and Ohio EPA Regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflow Consent Decree Negotiations** EPA, Department of Justice, Ohio EPA, and the City of Cleveland Heights met for Consent Decree negotiations during an in-person meeting on May 13, 2016 at EPA Region 5 Offices.	
Meetings		
Water	**NPDES Permit Writers Training – Chicago** Date: 5/23/2016 - 5/27/2016	

Weekly report for week ending May 20, 2016

ATTACHMENT

Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Office of Water, to View Green Infrastructure in Cincinnati, Ohio
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Joel Beauvais will visit Cincinnati on May 17th & 18th to visit Office of Research and Development (ORD), and to view and discuss Green Infrastructure and its impacts on watershed and community revitalization. ORD and Water are hosting the events on Day 1 and Day 2, respectively.

On May 17th, in addition to a tour of the laboratory, ORD will be discussing several priority Drinking Water topics, including Flint Lead and Legionella issues. Water Division has been invited to participate. ORD is also hosting a group of investors commercializing technologies for advanced water quality monitoring that ORD has researched.

The following day, Water Division will be hosting a tour organized with the cooperation of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati on Green Infrastructure (GI) topics. Much of the GI work in the area was precipitated by the CWA Consent Decree between the EPA, Ohio EPA, ORSANCO, and Defendants Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati. The tour will demonstrate the science of GI, as well as the co-benefits GI can provide the community. GI installations at St. Francis Gardens and Rapid Run, as well as the design and construction of the Lick Run Greenway (required under the CD as the Lower Mill Creek Partial Remedy), will be highlighted. A variety of speakers, including ORD and stakeholders such as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the South Fairmont Community Council, will be on hand to lend their voices to a discussion on not only the environmental benefits of GI, but the economic and community benefits. Mr. Beauvais will also view some of the demolition, deconstruction, and vacant lot greening activity in the neighborhood, an effort that was developed with the support of Region 5's Brownfields Program. A demonstration of advanced monitoring and Combined Sewer Overflow notification techniques employed in the field will be provided. The day will conclude with an open discussion with local stakeholders, including Hamilton County, sustainability representatives from Ohio EPA, and others, about the lessons learned implementing GI in the Cincinnati area.

Contact: Barbara Vantil, 6-3164, Water Enf & Comp Assurance
Catherine Johnson, 3-5692, State & Tribal Programs

Mayor of Lorain, Ohio Meets with EPA to Discuss Water Quality Improvements

The Mayor of Lorain, in Chicago for the Young Elected Officials National Convention on May 11th, met with Water Division staff Barbara VanTil and Rhiannon Dee. The Mayor wanted to highlight efforts to improve the City. The City is competing in HUD's "Promise Zone" competition. The Promise Zone is meant to provide priority access to federal investments to help implement the selected cities' revitalization goals. The Mayor expressed an interest in revitalizing the City's lakefront near its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) using the Promise Zone money, if selected. Barbara VanTil of Water Enforcement informed the Mayor that EPA is not currently

participating in the Promise Zone program, but that our Brownfields program may be called upon to review proposals. The Mayor was encouraged to seek out EPA's competitive grant programs to meet his revitalization needs, including grant opportunities from GLNPO and Brownfields.

The Mayor also discussed his satisfaction with the progress being made by the Black River Area of Concern (AOC) Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Per the Mayor, the two beneficial use impairments in the Black River AOC may be delisted in the near future; this would allow for greater use of the Black River near Lorain. The Mayor also expressed his support for the State's efforts regarding dredging activities in Lake Erie.

Lastly, the Mayor touched upon the City's compliance with its Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). The Mayor stated that, though the tunnel is slightly behind schedule, he anticipates that the tunnel will achieve significant control of the City's SSOs. This is a major milestone for the City. The Mayor expressed satisfaction with what the City was achieving under the terms of the AOC. Ms. VanTil requested that, when available, the City share any data generated as part of the Energy Efficiency program being implemented at the WWTP in accordance with the AOC.

Contact: Barbara Vantil, 6-3164, Water Enf & Comp Assurance
Rhiannon Dee, 6-4882, Water Enf & Comp Assurance

City of Cleveland Heights May 13, 2016, Meeting at EPA R5 Offices With EPA, Department of Justice, and Ohio EPA Regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflow Consent Decree Negotiations
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The City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, (the City) owns and operates a separate sanitary sewer system which captures sewage and transports it to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORSD) Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from the City discharge to Dugway Brook or its tributaries. Since 2013, the City has reported 80 SSOs over 39 days of discharge from 13 SSO locations. The records of continuing SSOs include lab evidence that indicates high pathogen levels in discharges as well as sewer backups into streets and homes.

In 2007, the Agency issued a 308 and 309(a) Administrative Order (AO) requiring the City to: eliminate all known SSOs; monitor for SSOs; do a sewer system evaluation study (SSES); and create a capacity, management, operations, and maintenance (CMOM) program. The City did not perform meaningful actions to comply with the Order. On September 30, 2011, EPA referred the City to the Department of Justice (DOJ). In 2012, EPA issued a 308 Request to the City. Cleveland Heights responded in part to the 2012 308, but continues to be in non-compliance with the monitoring and sampling portions of the Request.

Consent Decree negotiations began in May 2015. EPA, DOJ, Ohio EPA, and the City met in-person on May 13, 2016, to discuss NEORSD's system-wide SSES, which includes portions of the City's sewers; the City's future SSES and CMOM program; and the proposed injunctive relief and language. SSES discussions focused on the City's lack of information on their system's design and operation. The parties agreed that the true value of the injunctive relief needed to

eliminate unauthorized discharges will not be fully understood until the SSES is completed (currently proposed for 2020). EPA pressed the City on the need to invest in their sewer infrastructure; Cleveland Heights maintains that they cannot afford to do more work now due to affordability concerns. The City, however, is fiscally sound with a MHI of $53,000 - well above state average.

The Plaintiffs will regroup to consider the next steps regarding injunctive relief and the CD, given the general agreement on the unknowns in the sewer system. With respect to the CMOM, EPA has agreed to have a technical discussion to provide the City feedback on its proposed program.

Contact: Michelle Heger, 6-4510, Water Enf & Comp Assurance
Barbara Vantil, 6-3164, Water Enf & Comp Assurance
Kris Vezner, 6-6827, - - - -

NPDES Permit Writers Training - Chicago
Date: 5/23/2016 - 5/27/2016

Region 5 will host training for EPA, State and Tribal staff involved in development and review of NPDES permits May 23-27, 2016. This is national training, coordinated by EPA HQ, for staff new to the NPDES program or as a refresher course for experienced staff. The focus of this training is on state, EPA and tribal staff involved in writing and reviewing NPDES permits. This training covers regulatory requirements, scientific approaches, and policy and guidance necessary for development and review of NPDES permits. This training is most appropriate for scientists and engineers in the program as well as program managers. This course is being offered at three locations nationwide during FY16.

Contact: Quintin White, 6-0135, NPDES Programs