



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

**ROBERT L. PROUD**

**MARY C. WALKER**

**R. SCOTT CROSWELL III**

August 28, 2003

Dear Property Owner:

Thank you for your recent letters of concern regarding the proposed Loveland / Miamiville area Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This response is intended to provide you with complete and accurate information on the status of the proposed project. Unfortunately, many incorrect assumptions have led to unfounded concerns and fears as to the true impacts of this process. Hopefully, we can address your concerns by providing answers to the basic issues contained in your letters.

Concern: *The proposed plant will be located in a residential neighborhood.*

Answer: No site has been selected. Clermont County's request for an OEPA NPDES permit is a preliminary step in determining whether to proceed. The County will not expend funds to design a facility or purchase property unless we have authorization to discharge to "Waters of the State." Therefore, only after issuance of a discharge permit, will we proceed to locate a suitable site or design a WWTP. If a discharge permit is issued, future public involvement meetings will be scheduled. In addition, the County will make every effort to avoid proximity to residential homes.

Concern: *The proposed plant will pollute the scenic Little Miami River.*

Answer: The intent is to protect and ultimately prevent pollution from entering the river. By properly treating sewage from existing homes in the area, the discharge from a carefully monitored and controlled WWTP will actually be cleaner than the pollution potential from aging septic systems that currently exist. If approved, the County will also be taking two existing WWTPs that have reached their useful life out of service and directing flow

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through the proposed facility. By eliminating two discharge points with new technology, pollution potential is greatly reduced.

Concern: *The project was kept secret.*

Response: The County has actually been working on this study area since the late 1980's. Significant effort has been expended to analyze the needs of Northern Miami Township with multiple options being evaluated. These included joint efforts with Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), renovation of existing facilities, direct replacement of failing on site systems, and construction of a modern facility to eliminate outdated systems. Multiple presentations have been made to OEPA, County and Township Officials. Local environmental groups such as Little Miami, Inc. have been kept apprised of our efforts. Again, public involvement meetings will be scheduled in the future if the proposed project proceeds.

Concern: *The plant would discharge into an already polluted Little Miami River.*

Response: The health and viability of the Little Miami River are of great concern to all of us. There has been tremendous effort to study and evaluate the ability of the river to accept the proposed discharge without detracting from its natural quality and beauty as well as its recreational value. In this case the failure of the County to take action to deal with the current problems in the area would certainly result in the exact detrimental effects which form the basis of your concern. Under the proposed plan, the chemical-specific water quality criteria developed to protect aquatic life and human health, set forth in OAC 3745-1, will not be exceeded by the proposed WWTP.

Concern: *You are risking the underground drinking water supply.*

Response: The proposed facility is actually intended to eliminate potential pollution sources from the Miami Goshen Stonelick Water Treatment Plant underground aquifer. Current dry well and leaching from on site systems located in the wellhead protection area pose a tremendous threat to your drinking water. Our wellhead

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protection plan calls for elimination of these potential pollution sources. Public sewers provide a safe process to accelerate nature's biological breakdown of waste products to safely recycle the pollution we create. Current technology allows us to efficiently and effectively improve on nature's ability to protect itself from human activity. This results in a safer water source for our residents and future generations.

Concern: *The Little Miami River can not accept the additional two million gallons of treated wastewater per day.*

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Response: While we are requesting a discharge permit for up to two million gallons per day of treated wastewater, the initial flow will be approximately 200,000 gallons per day or one tenth of that amount. Only 113, 000 gallons would be new discharge since we would be removing two existing plants totaling 87,000 gallons per day. Currently, OEPA is considering two other upstream discharge requests, the City of Mason for an expansion to 13 million gallons per day and MSD's Sycamore Plant expansion to nine million gallons per day with the additional ability to discharge up to 30 million gallons per day of partially treated wastewater during high flow periods. Clermont County's request represents less than one percent of the discharge from these facilities initially and only 8 percent at full capacity. OEPA is tasked with evaluating overall impact to the Little Miami River based on all permitted discharges. Keep in mind there are also several other existing facilities discharging upstream from your community.

Concern: *The stench will create a negative impact on our community.*

Response: Provided the proposed WWTP is properly operated, no noxious odors should be released from the facility. In order to gain perspective, please consider the existing WWTP along Loveland Miami Road. The community should expect the same performance from a new facility. Therefore, judge the merits of our proposal based on Clermont County's current operation of that facility. Do not compare with less effectively maintained or antiquated plants.

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On behalf of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners, please be assured that we will do everything possible to make sure that every citizen has their opportunity to be heard and that every attempt will be made to address your concerns. We are very early in this process and there will be ample opportunity along the way to secure input. Our goal is to sustain your community by providing up to date services that enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Please stay in touch as we work through the evaluation of the proposed facility so your voice can be heard.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. YEAGER  
Director of Utilities

TCY/dc

cc: Board of County Commissioners  
David L. Spinney  
File