

# COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW NOTIFICATION PLAN

for the

**City of Akron  
Water Reclamation Services**



**Issued to:** Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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**Effective Date:** November 8, 2018

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# COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW NOTIFICATION PLAN

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## **Introduction and Background**

The City of Akron has developed this Combined Sewer Overflow Notification Plan (the “Plan”) to comply with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 122.38. This regulation requires that a permittee authorized to discharge combined sewer overflows (“CSOs”) to the Great Lakes Basin must provide public notification, as described within the rule, as well as develop a notification plan.

The City of Akron sewer collection system includes both separate sanitary sewers and combined sewers (i.e. sewers that carry both sanitary flows and storm water in the same pipe). The combined sewers are located within the older central core of the City. The combined sewer system includes CSO outfalls that discharge to surface waters when the flow exceeds the capacity of the combined sewers. Intercepted flows are theoretically controlled by drop inlet or “limiting pipe” racks located in the invert of the combined sewer trunks at their connection points to the Ohio Canal Interceptor (OCI), the Little Cuyahoga Interceptor, the Northside Interceptor, the Camp Brook Trunk Sewer, and the Main Outfall Sewer. These racks function as static control devices, which intercept all dry weather flow, while limiting flow to the interceptor sewers during rainfall events. The “limiting pipe” consists of a small diameter conduit connecting the drop inlet to the interceptor sewer and serves as a connection between the interceptor sewers and the combined sewer system. The drop inlet is covered with a horizontal bar rack to prevent clogging of the connection. The bar rack accounts for the name “Rack” that is given to each regulator.

The City of Akron’s Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) and sewer collection system is regulated under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that has been issued by the Ohio EPA (Permit #3PF00000). This permit authorizes the discharges of CSOs at certain locations within the system.

The City is in the process of installing controls to reduce the volume and frequency of CSOs from the sewer system. The controls are being installed in accordance with a federal Consent Decree and a CSO Long Term Control Plan that has been approved by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the Ohio EPA.

## **Overview of the Plan**

The U.S. EPA adopted 40 C.F.R. §122.38 to implement section 425 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, which requires U.S. EPA to work with the Great Lakes States to establish public notification requirements for CSO discharges to the Great Lakes Basin.

The requirements of the regulation include the elements:

- signage,
- notification of the local public health department and other potentially affected public entities of CSO occurrences,
- notification of the general public of CSO occurrences, and
- annual notice describing the CSO discharges that occurred in the previous calendar year.

The Plan is designed to describe how the City of Akron will make information on CSO occurrences and CSO impacts available to the public as well as public health officials. The public can use this information to make informed decisions about recreating in or near local waterways. This Plan further includes provisions to ensure reporting is made to the appropriate local, state and federal authorities.

The City of Akron will make this Plan available on its website as well as periodically provide information on the availability of this Plan, such as in bill mailings and by other appropriate means.

The elements that must be included within this Plan are set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c). Each required element is discussed in the following sections.

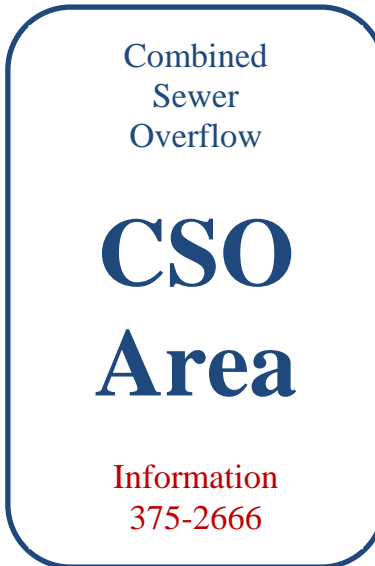
### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(1) CSO Signage**

The following Table provides a listing of the locations of the current CSO outfalls. With the exception of Rack 34, a sign is located at or near each CSO discharge point. A sign is not feasible or necessary at Rack 34 due to dangerous conditions at the base of the Gorge Dam spillway.

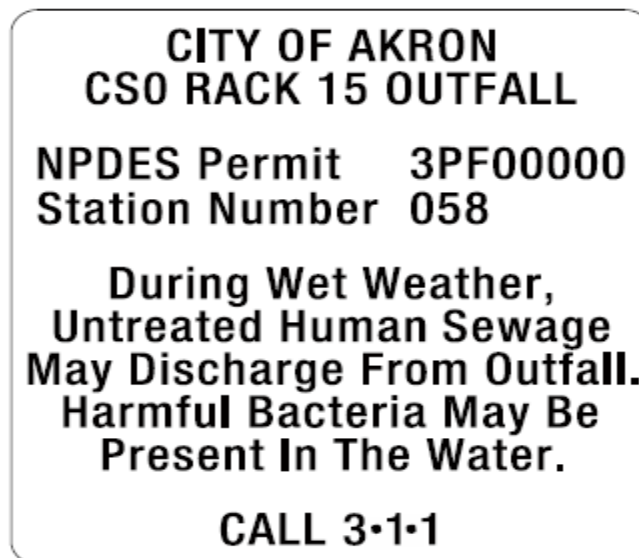
Permit Outfall Number	Location	Latitude			Longitude			Receiving Water
		DEG	MIN	SEC	DEG	MIN	SEC	
3PF00000046	Rack 3 – Kelly Ave.	41	03	50.4	81	28	52.5	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000047	Rack 4 – Mill St.	41	05	01.1	81	31	13.0	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000049	Rack 6 – Factory St.	41	03	54.1	81	29	04.8	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000053	Rack 10 – Case Ave. – Newton St. District	41	04	29.6	81	29	03.4	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000054	Rack 11 – Hazel St. – District 4	41	04	45.4	81	29	08.7	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000055	Former Rack 12 – Camp Brook Storage Basin	41	05	34.5	81	29	00.7	Camp Brook
3PF00000057	Former Rack 14 – Forge Field Storage Basin	41	05	07.6	81	29	43.1	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000058	Former Rack 15 – Cascade Village Storage Basin	41	05	26.7	81	30	15.8	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000059	Rack 16 – Wolf Ledges Trunk	41	04	44.4	81	31	23.2	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000060	Rack 17 – Exchange St.	41	04	44.8	81	31	22.5	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000061	Rack 18 – Willow Run Trunk	41	05	10.9	81	31	08.7	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000062	Rack 19 – West Market St.	41	05	10.5	81	31	08.6	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000063	Rack 20 – West North St.	41	05	28.1	81	31	04.2	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000065	Former Rack 22 – Howard Street Storage Basin	41	05	34.3	81	31	05.3	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000066	Rack 23 – North Maple St.	41	05	37.9	81	31	10.4	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000067	Rack 24 – West Market St Outlet @ Ravine St.	41	05	38.7	81	31	16.4	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000069	Rack 26 – Aqueduct St outlet East of Hickory St.	41	06	05.4	81	31	39.9	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000070	Rack 27 – Uhler Ave. @ Memorial Parkway	41	06	14.7	81	31	38.1	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000071	Rack 28 – Memorial Parkway @ Hickory St.	41	06	14.6	81	31	39.5	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000072	Rack 29 – Uhler Ave. – Carpenter St. Outlet	41	06	29.9	81	31	39.5	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000075	Rack 32 – Carpenter Heights District @ Cascade Park Rd.	41	07	03.6	81	31	19.5	Cuyahoga River
3PF00000076	Rack 33 – North Side Interceptor @ Cuyahoga River & Main St.	41	07	23.0	81	30	38.3	Cuyahoga River
3PF00000077	Rack 34 – Riverside Dr. District @ MetroParks Easement Rd.	41	07	23.6	81	29	54.7	Cuyahoga River
3PF00000078	Rack 35 – Gorge Blvd. District @ Front St. Bridge	41	07	04.4	81	29	37.6	Cuyahoga River
3PF00000080	Rack 37 – Bowery Street	41	04	49.8	81	31	12.1	Ohio and Erie Canal
3PF00000081	Racks 2N & 2S – Goodyear Retention Tank #1376 Ninth Ave.	41	03	33.8	81	28	29.2	Little Cuyahoga River
3PF00000083	Former Racks 30/31/40 – Cuyahoga Street Storage Facility	41	06	46.3	81	31	39.4	Little Cuyahoga River

## 40 C.F.R §122.38(c)(2) The message used on signs

In 1997, the City installed “CSO Area” signs in the combined sewer areas. The signs were meant to alert the public of their proximity to a combined sewer overflow location and provide a phone number to call for additional information or to report overflow impacts. The signs were placed at prominent locations near outfalls and at the intersections of the receiving streams with major streets. These signs were replaced in late 2002 in order to update the contact phone number and to restore the physically deteriorated signs.



The City is in the process of replacing the above referenced signs with updated signs. The updated signs will contain the following information:



#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(3) Protocols for maintaining signs**

The signs will be inspected to ensure visibility and readability when the corresponding overflow sewers are periodically inspected as part of the City's Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) Program.

#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(4) Points of Contact**

The following are the points of contact for the municipalities, public drinking water supplies, public parks with water access, Indian Tribe(s), and describe other sensitive area(s) identified in the permittee's long-term CSO control plan, that may be impacted by the permittee's CSO discharges;

- Summit County Public Health
  - Health Commissioner
  - Environmental Health Director
- Summit Metro Parks
  - Superintendent
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
  - 24-hour Communication Center 440-546-5945
- City of Cuyahoga Falls
  - City Engineer

#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(5) Summary of Public Health Department Comments**

An open forum meeting was held on June 20, 2018 with key stakeholders, including but not limited to Summit County Public Health, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit Metro Parks, Ohio EPA, & Friends of the Crooked River to present the CSO Notification Plan for discussion.

The following significant comments and recommendations were raised by the local public health department under paragraph (d) of this section;

**Comment:** How does the information reach those using the river that do not have access to technology?

**Response:** *The City will inform residents about the Plan through an initial press release and will consider other methods such as bill stuffers or fliers.*

**Comment:** People will want some guidelines on when the river is safe to recreate.

**Response:** *The City plans to include links to Nowcast and to the Cuyahoga River Water Trail website when it is completed. The Water Trail website will include river safety and other training information.*

## **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(6) Identify Other Affected Public Entities and Summarize Comments**

As a result of the meeting held on June 20, 2018 referenced in §122.38(c)(5) above, the following significant comments and recommendations were raised by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio EPA, & Friends of the Crooked River under paragraph (d) of this section;

**Comment:** Include information on CSO Notification Web Page about water quality problems where there are not CSOs.

**Response:** *The City plans to include links to Nowcast and to the Cuyahoga River Water Trail website when it is completed. The Water Trail website will include river safety and other training information.*

## **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(7) Protocols for Initial and Supplemental Notice to Public Health Department**

Information regarding CSO discharges will be made available to the Summit County Department of Health by placing the information on the City of Akron's Web Page, which is continually updated. The information of the Web Page is discussed in detail in the following section of this Plan.

## **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(8) Protocols for Initial and Supplemental Notice to the Public**

The City of Akron created a CSO Notification Web Page that the public can visit 24-hours per day to learn if a CSO discharge(s) is occurring, or has occurred in the past. The Web Page will display the initial notification as soon as possible, but no later than four (4) hours after the City becomes aware that a CSO discharge has occurred. Shortly after the end of the day in which CSO discharges have occurred, the Web Page will display supplemental information that includes the measured or estimated volume of discharge(s) and the approximate time(s) the discharge(s) ended.

The CSO Notification Web Page includes a list of CSO location information, a graphic representation of the CSO discharge points, the waterways that they discharge to and links to report tables that list specific information for each overflow occurrence at each site.

The on-line map of CSOs is updated seven days a week as the information becomes available. It will provide the public with information regarding ongoing CSO discharges and a record of the volume and end time of the previous CSO discharge(s) in the Akron area waterway system.

The waterways represented on the map include the following: Camp Brook, Little Cuyahoga River, Cuyahoga River, and the Ohio and Erie Canal.



Upon occurrence of a CSO, the icon representing the CSO changes in color from green to red. Clicking on the icon will open a pop-up window for the site that includes text listing the following information as required by the rule:

- The water body that received the discharge(s);
- The location of the discharge(s) and identification of the public access areas potentially impacted by the discharge;
- The date(s) and time(s) the discharge(s) commenced ;
- Whether, at the time of the notification, the discharge(s) is continuing or has ended. If the discharge(s) has ended, the approximate time that the discharge(s) ended;
- The measured or estimated volume of the discharge(s);
- A point of contact for the CSO permittee;
- A link to a site report listing previous events at the site; and
- A link to a system wide report listing daily totals at all discharge points.

The information for each event will be added to the report table to act as a short term historical record at each location.

#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(9) How volume and duration are measured**

The City of Akron SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system performs the monitoring and calculation of volume and duration of overflows from the CSO racks. At most CSO locations, the data is measured using an ultrasonic level sensor and a weir that has been installed in the overflow pipe or within a CSO storage facility. When the water level in the sewer or basin is greater than the height of the weir, an overflow alarm is generated and the unit begins to calculate the volume of the overflow using a weir equation.

The SCADA system receives status change updates from each site over a fiber optic network or via an 800 MHz radio system and stores all digital and analog data in a database on a historical server. When an overflow status change alarm is received, the CSO Notification Web Page will show that change immediately as the information becomes available. It will also be able to show the most recent flow total or the total flow for the last previous day in which an overflow occurred.

#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(10) Protocols for making the Annual Notice Available to Public and the Director**

##### **Submittal and Availability of Annual Notice**

Copies of the CSONP Annual Notice shall be posted to the Akron Waterways Renewed! Web Page and distributed to the following departments and functional positions:

- Ohio EPA (email sent to: [NPDES\\_CS0@epa.gov](mailto:NPDES_CS0@epa.gov))
- Summit County Public Health, Health Commissioner
- Summit Metro Parks, Superintendent
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- City of Akron, Water Reclamation Services

- City of Akron, Director of Public Service
- City of Cuyahoga Falls, City Engineer

#### **40 C.F.R. § 122.38(c)(11) Significant modifications to the Plan**

This Plan shall be reviewed annually. Any significant modifications that are made to the prior version of the Plan will be identified in this section.