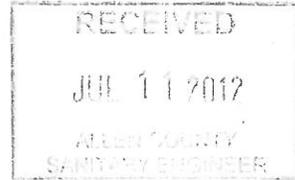




**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Scott J. Nally, Director



Re: Allen County  
Unincorporated Hamlet of Gomer  
Unsewered Area

July 10, 2012

Allen County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 1243  
Lima, Ohio 45802

Dear Commissioners:

During the Ottawa River TMDL assessment in 2010, 11 samples for *E. coli* analysis were collected from Pike Run at Lima-Gomer Road between May 12, 2010, and October 13, 2010. The geometric mean of these samples was 3,144 cfu/100 ml. The geometric mean is calculated from two or more samples and is used as the basis for determining recreation use attainment status when more than one sample is collected. The *E. coli* criteria that apply to Pike Run, a Class B primary contact recreation water, include a geometric mean of 161 cfu/100 ml and a maximum value of 523 cfu/100 ml.

A public health nuisance, as defined in Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-04 (F), exists when water samples exceed 576 *E. coli* cfu/100 ml in two or more samples when five or fewer samples are collected, or in more than 20 percent of the samples when more than five samples are taken. Although the Public Health Nuisance field forms were not completed to document odor, color or other visual manifestations of raw or poorly treated sewage, the low flow conditions and *E. coli* counts provide evidence of unsanitary conditions resulting from inadequately or untreated wastewater discharges from the unsewered area of Gomer.

Table of *E. coli* sample results collected from Pike Run at Lima-Gomer Road during the Ottawa River TMDL assessment in 2010:

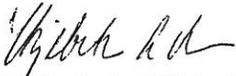
Date	CFU per 100 ml
5/12/10	1600
5/26/10	1050
6/16/10	2490
6/23/10	2280
6/29/10	6900
7/28/10	3450
8/04/10	4200
8/11/10	7700
8/18/10	6100
9/15/10	6900
10/13/10	959

Allen County Board of Commissioners  
July 10, 2012  
Page Two

On June 28, 2012, a reconnaissance evaluation of the discharge(s) from the Unsewered area of Gomer to Pike Run was conducted. A discharge from two PVC pipes below the bridge on the north side of Gomer on Lima-Gomer road was observed. The discharges were observed to be adding color, odor, and turbidity to waters of the State and were, therefore, in violation of Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-04. Pictures from that evaluation are enclosed for your review.

**Within 90 days** of the date of this letter, please inform this office as to how these water quality issues will be addressed and the timeline for eliminating the public health nuisance. If we do not hear from you within the 90 day time frame or if your proposed actions do not adequately address our concerns, we will recommend that the Director of Ohio EPA take enforcement actions to bring the unsewered area of Gomer into compliance. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting with our office, please contact Mr. Justin Williams at (419) 373 – 3022.

Yours truly,



Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer/Section Manager  
Division of Surface Water

JAW/jlm

Enclosures

pc: Mr. Stephen Kayatin, P.E., Allen County Sanitary Engineering Department  
Allen County Health Department  
File







