



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Anne M. Vogel, Director

March 10, 2023

**TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**

Ilene Shapiro, Executive  
County of Summit  
Ohio Building - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
175 South Main Street  
Akron, OH 44308

RE: Village of Peninsula  
General Correspondence  
NPDES  
Summit County  
8DU00438

**Subject: Peninsula wastewater treatment options**

Dear Ms. Shapiro:

This letter is in response to on-going discussions between Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, the Village of Peninsula, the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services and the residents of the Village of Peninsula, regarding wastewater treatment options to address sewage issues that exist within the Village of Peninsula.

Ohio EPA understands that some of the residents of the Village feel a decentralized or hybrid sewage treatment system may be a viable solution and are requesting that the Village and County explore these types of systems to address the sewage needs of the Village.

Ohio EPA strongly believes the installation of a centralized sewerage system as proposed by the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services is the best option to address the sewage needs of the Village and would also be the most protective of water quality in the Cuyahoga River. This proposed alternative, which includes use of a conventional extended aeration sewage treatment plant is proven technology, which the Department of Sanitary Sewer Services has much expertise in operating and maintaining.

Conversely, while decentralized wastewater treatment systems have their applications in some circumstances, for a community such as Peninsula, where homes and businesses are in close proximity to one another, the installation and operation of a decentralized system tends to be problematic. The installation of these systems would likely require the acquisition of land by the County through purchase or eminent domain because many of the properties in the Village do not have adequate space for the various components of a decentralized system. Therefore, it is not as simple as just upgrading existing facilities. Additionally, a public entity would need to assume ownership of the decentralized system serving numerous individual properties, which may become impractical.

Furthermore, biological wastewater treatment systems require a consistent wastewater flow with an adequate organic load for the microorganisms in the treatment system to digest the sewage and function properly. Smaller biological wastewater treatment systems are greatly affected by low flow conditions, which inhibits their ability to remove ammonia and meet their permit requirements. This makes smaller wastewater treatment systems with greater variability in flow rates more challenging to

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operate than a single larger facility with more consistent flow. As a result, a single larger wastewater treatment system serving the Village provides a simpler solution that is easier to operate, faces less challenges, and is generally more protective of the environment.

We would be happy to meet with you to further discuss these issues and answer any questions you may have. To that end, please feel free to contact me at 330-963-1283.

**This letter is an official response from Ohio EPA that will be maintained as a public record.**

Sincerely,

*David Emerman*

Dave Emerman  
District Chief  
Northeast District Office

DE/ams

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Dean Stoll, Ohio EPA, DSW, NEDO  
Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio EPA, Chief DSW, Central Office  
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Ali Rogalski, Summit County Public Health  
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Mayor Schneider, Village of Peninsula