



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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July 6, 2006

JD Creer, Editor
Salem News
161 North Lincoln Ave.
Salem, Ohio 44460

Dear Mr. Creer:

I am responding to the June 30 article, "County sites considered for ethanol plant." A source provided inaccurate information about Ohio EPA's permitting time frames for ethanol plants.

Contrary to what the source stated, it has never taken an ethanol plant four years to get a permit from Ohio EPA. The average permit turnaround for the four permitted ethanol facilities in Ohio is 8.4 months, which includes 4.8 months on Ohio EPA's clock and 3.6 months waiting for applicants to provide additional information.

If more than one permit is required, such as one for air emissions and one for wastewater discharges, Ohio EPA has to issue them at the same time. In the case of one Ohio ethanol plant with the longest permit processing time, the applicant waited 11 months between submitting the two permit applications.

Ohio EPA has taken steps to simplify and speed the process for companies that seek to build ethanol plants in Ohio. We're doing more to educate potential applicants about how the process works. In my office, one person is designated as the contact to help ethanol plant representatives with permitting issues. We created a permitting guidebook for ethanol plants, in which we encourage applicants to meet with Ohio EPA early and submit all applications at the same time. Finally, we created a "model" permit that our permit writers and applicants can use to quickly determine permit conditions.

Ohio EPA will issue ethanol plant permits as quickly as possible while still protecting the environment. If complete and timely applications are filed, we can meet or exceed the existing statutory time frame of six months to issue these permits.

Sincerely,

Joseph Koncelik
Director

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director



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