

Dear Ohio E.P.A. Permit Reviewer:

I live and play on the shores of Lake Erie in Luna Pier, MI. The Army Corps of Engineers is asking Ohio E.P.A. to approve a permit application that will allow open lake disposal of up to 2 million cubic yards of sediment from 2010 through 2012 in an area that will alter the water quality and beaches in Luna Pier.

For many years Ohio E.P.A., Ohio D.N.R., Toledo Lucas County Port Authority and the City of Toledo have opposed open lake dumping saying it has adverse impacts on water quality, habitat and increases the cost of water treatment. The practice should not be allowed to continue! The request is for open lake disposal for up to 2 million cubic yards. This is simply unacceptable given the fragility of the Western Lake Erie waters. The suggested minimal degradation of 1.35 million cubic yards is nearly 2.5 times the average over the last six years. Why would the O.E.P.A. go against their better judgment to allow this to continue and to increase? Please deny this permit application.

Ohio E.P.A. is required by law to consider the technical, economic, social, and environmental impact of the activity requested in this permit application. There will be severe, adverse effects on the economy and environment in our City and waterfront, which will in turn have a severe adverse impact on our social conditions. Plus, there are many technical alternatives that have been suggested to Ohio E.P.A. Many have advocated for a habitat area designed for walleye spawning grounds and birds using the dredged sediments.

The imminent closing of Consumers Whiting Plant here in Luna Pier will be a crushing blow to our economic base, and the dredging of the Toledo Channel will have devastating affects for our alternate plan for economic and social survival. Luna Pier has recently passed a Master Plan that focuses on our water front resources to increase our tax revenues. We are also surrounded by and part of the first and only International Wildlife Refuge in North America and must rely on water and wildlife resources to remain viable economically, socially and environmentally.

Please do not allow the open lake disposal to continue because it is a detriment to my community, the fish population and the overall health of Lake Erie and the Citizens who live nearby.

Sincerely,