

Appendix K

Integrated Priority System (IPS)

Ohio's Integrated Priority System (IPS) is used annually to prioritize projects on the WPCLF PPL. The IPS rates a project by considering the protection of human health and/or the protection or restoration of water resources.

WPCLF

WPCLF projects are rated based on three factors:

Human Health

Actions addressing documented human health concerns from waterborne pathogens or pollutants are the highest priority.

- a. First Priority - (40 points) addressing a documented disease outbreak.
- b. Second Priority - (35 points) addressing a documented human health threat from either:
 - failing household sewage treatment systems,
 - sewage backing up into basements or onto residential properties (due to inadequate capacity of the sewer system), or
 - other risk to a human-related water use (from either drinking water contamination, bathing beach closures, or fish contamination resulting in consumption advisories) which is documented by data.
- c. Third Priority - (30 points) eliminating dry weather overflows from either sanitary sewers or combined sewers due to inadequate capacity of the sewer system.
- d. Fourth Priority - (9 points, plus 0.2 point for each overflow eliminated) addressing wet weather overflows from either sanitary sewers or combined sewers by either:
 - eliminating the overflows;
 - for combined sewers only, reducing the volume of overflows by either:
 - replacing combined sewers with separate sanitary sewers,
 - providing additional storage, or
 - installing an express sewer to route sanitary flow out of the combined sewer system directly to the treatment facility; or
 - for combined sewers only, providing at least advanced primary treatment for overflows.

No Human Health Priority - (0 points) an action which does not qualify under any of the above categories.

Water Resources

Actions addressing water resources constitute the second major category of the ranking system. Actions are ranked in relation to their protection or restoration of rivers and streams, inland lakes, Lake Erie, the Ohio River, wetlands, and ground water.

Economic Need Factor

Publicly-owned treatment works projects that qualify under the hardship interest rate guidelines for either 0% or 1% percent receive 4 points in their project rating scores.

WRRSP

WRRSP projects will be ranked in two categories: the Water Resource Protection Category and the Water Resource Restoration Category.

- Water Resource Protection Category - This category consists of projects that protect the long-term protection of high-quality water resources.
- Water Resource Restoration Category - This category consists of projects that involve addressing impairments to the water resource and their long-term protection.

Beginning in program year (PY) 2020, the WRRSP added a new subcategory of restoration to specifically address projects involving multiple dam removals in urban stream corridors. The Urban Corridor Dam Restoration (UCD-Restoration) category is a subset of the larger WRRSP Restoration category and intended to focus WRRSP resources on this Ohio EPA water quality priority. UCD-Restoration project attributes include a collaborative effort between communities to remove multiple dams within their collective urban corridor. Additionally, these projects will be part of a larger planned revitalization effort to remove barriers to restoration of important waterways, while achieving both ecological and water quality benefits. Dam removal projects not part of an urban corridor will be reviewed in the general restoration category.

WRRSP projects are evaluated based on the quality of the existing resource, effectiveness of action of the proposed project, proposed ecological lift of restoration activities, cost effectiveness of the project, and implementability and readiness to proceed of the proposed projects. Other factors may also be evaluated to determine project rankings.

Ranking WRRSP Projects with Identical Rating Scores in the Same Category

For projects that receive identical priority rating scores, the projects with smaller estimated project costs will be ranked ahead of projects with larger estimated project costs.