

## ***Solid Waste Plan Process***

### **What is a Solid Waste Management Plan?**

- A plan is a formal document that serves two overriding purposes:
  - ✓ It provides for the safe management of the solid waste generated within the NCO Solid Waste District for all years covered by the plan
  - ✓ It demonstrates how the NCO Solid Waste District will achieve the goals established in the state solid waste management plan.
- The planning period is 15 years.
- Plans are prepared by the policy committee in accordance with the requirements contained in the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code and a format prescribed by Ohio EPA in the 4.1 version format.

### **Preparing the Draft Plan**

- The policy committee is required to prepare periodic updates to its plan at least 15 months prior to the date the draft plan update is due to Ohio EPA (the due date).
- The policy committee is further required to obtain an approved plan update within the 18 months following the draft plan due date.
- The solid waste plan is updated every 5 years.
- The plan includes 22 appendices and 6 chapters that detail the population, waste disposal, waste generation, recycling, District programs, budget and other details comprising the plan update.

### **Ohio EPA Review and Plan Revisions**

Upon receiving the draft plan, Ohio EPA has 45 days to review it and issue comments to the policy committee. These comments are provided in a document called a non-binding advisory opinion (NBAO). The NBAO contains Ohio EPA's recommendations to the policy committee for revising the plan prior to ratifying the plan. After receiving the NBAO, the policy committee makes whatever revisions it considers appropriate to address Ohio EPA's comments.

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### **Public Comment Period, Public Hearing and Adoption of Draft Plan**

Once revisions to a draft plan are complete, the policy committee makes the draft plan available for public comment and holds a public hearing. Following the public hearing, the policy committee makes whatever changes it deems necessary to address comments received from interested parties. After completing revisions to a draft plan, the policy committee takes a formal vote to adopt or reject the draft plan.

### **Ratifying the Draft Plan**

Within 30 days after adopting a draft plan, the policy committee initiates a ratification procedure. Ratification is the process that the policy committee must follow to give the SWMD's communities the opportunity to approve or reject the draft plan. Each community has 90 days to read the plan and return a vote. Once it has been ratified, the policy committee submits the draft plan to Ohio EPA for review and approval or disapproval.

### **Ohio EPA Review and Approval**

Ohio EPA has 90 days to review a ratified plan and either approve or disapprove the ratified plan. If Ohio EPA approves the ratified plan, then the director of Ohio EPA orders the board to implement the approved plan. The policy committee is also required to annually review implementation of the approved plan. Ohio EPA Review and Disapproval  
 If Ohio EPA disapproves the ratified plan, then the director orders the policy committee to submit a revised, ratified plan that remedies deficiencies identified by Ohio EPA. The policy committee has 90 days to revise the plan.

### **Current Schedule for Plan Update**

<b>OEPA Schedule for New Plan</b>	
<b>OEPA Published Start Date</b>	<b>3/21/2021</b>
<b>Draft Due</b>	<b>6/21/2022</b>
<b>Final Draft Due to OEPA</b>	<b>9/22/2023</b>
<b>Final Approval by OEPA</b>	<b>12/21/2023</b>