

Subject: Public Comment — Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Application No. 262513D

Dear Ohio EPA:

I am submitting this comment regarding NEORSD's application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed Horseshoe Park construction project.

Before issuing certification, I ask Ohio EPA to make sure its decision is based on a complete, current, and internally consistent technical record.

The physical condition of the Horseshoe Lake basin has changed substantially over time. The lake was dewatered, the dam was breached, vegetation and wetland conditions have changed, and additional site disturbance has occurred while the proposed project continued to evolve.

For that reason, I ask Ohio EPA to identify:

- which technical studies describe current site conditions;
- which studies rely on conditions that existed before the breach or dewatering;
- whether older wetland, hydrologic, habitat, or water-quality information remains reliable;
- whether any material assumptions have changed as the project design changed;
- and whether Ohio EPA has independently verified important applicant conclusions rather than simply carrying them forward from earlier project documents.

If a certification decision depends on outdated conditions, predicted future conditions, or technical assumptions that have

not been independently verified, the agency should require additional information before acting.

Section 401 review should be based on the project and landscape that exist now, not simply on the record as it existed at an earlier stage of project development.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

[Name][Address / City][Optional personal observation]