



TMACOG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Why We Update Our Sewerage Facility Planning Areas (FPAs)

What is the TMACOG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan?

The Clean Water Act of 1972 dictates that water quality planning is done on an area wide basis across the nation. Each region makes a statement about how they will return their waterways to fishable and swimmable conditions. Sometimes called the “208” Plan, the *TMACOG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* is our region’s statement.

What area is covered by TMACOG?

The TMACOG designated area covers Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood Counties in Ohio; and Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford Townships in Monroe County, Michigan.

What is our role?

A **Facility Planning Area (FPA)** is an area in which local governments plan to provide sanitary sewer service, as needed, in the next twenty years.

- An FPA includes one treatment plant, either existing or planned.
- In most cases, an FPA covers all or part of several political jurisdictions. Urbanized areas include several or many political jurisdictions. FPAs provide a mechanism for planning future sewage treatment facilities regardless of where future political boundaries may fall.

A **Designated Management Agency (DMA)** is a local governmental agency that provides sanitary sewer service — by building or operating either sanitary sewers or a public wastewater treatment plant.

- Several DMAs may have responsibilities for providing service in a given FPA. For instance, the central city owns the wastewater plant and the sewers within its corporate limits. The county owns and operates sewers in unincorporated areas. The city provides treatment services to county customers under contract with the county. Both the city and the county are DMAs. The “208” Plan recognizes each DMA’s specific responsibilities.

The 208 Plan is reviewed by the TMACOG Environmental Council and adopted by the Board of Trustees. It is then submitted to Michigan DNRE and Ohio EPA with a request for certification by the Governors as part of the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC §6111.03j2b) requires the Director of OEPA to deny any permit which would conflict with an adopted 208 plan.

How does the plan help?

The *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* covers a broad range of water quality issues, including agricultural runoff, urban runoff, and septic systems. It helps individual communities search for grants by having a statement of needs. Such a plan also gives communities some control over how land is used. For example, sewerage FPAs are based on established land use plans — creating a link between land use planning and sewer planning.

What does the plan do for my community?

Ohio EPA uses these FPAs in reviewing and approving proposed sanitary sewers. Be sure they accurately show which areas are intended to develop and which areas should remain rural and agricultural. Michigan DNRE does not use the Planning Areas for permits; they serve as a planning tool for local agencies.

Furthermore, the *TMACOG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* identifies the following:

- Areas with existing water quality problems and
- Areas that will need sewers over the next twenty years to protect public health and water quality.

What if a change needs to be made?

The TMACOG Environmental Council makes recommendations on proposed plan amendments. The first step is to contact TMACOG staff. TMACOG will discuss the proposed amendment with the affected DMAs. If it is not controversial, staff will draft a resolution to enact the amendment, and get it on the Environmental Council agenda. If one or more DMAs have issues with the proposed amendment, staff will coordinate meetings to attempt to resolve them. If the Environmental Council recommends approval of an amendment, it is forwarded to the TMACOG Board of Trustees for final action. A 208 plan amendment resolution is forwarded to the TMACOG Executive Committee regardless of recommendation by the Environmental Council.

Each county has a seat on the Environmental Council; other DMAs and interested local governments and organizations are welcome to participate.

For More Information

The “208” Plan, including corrections, updates, and future needs, are available on TMACOG’s Website at www.tmacog.org.

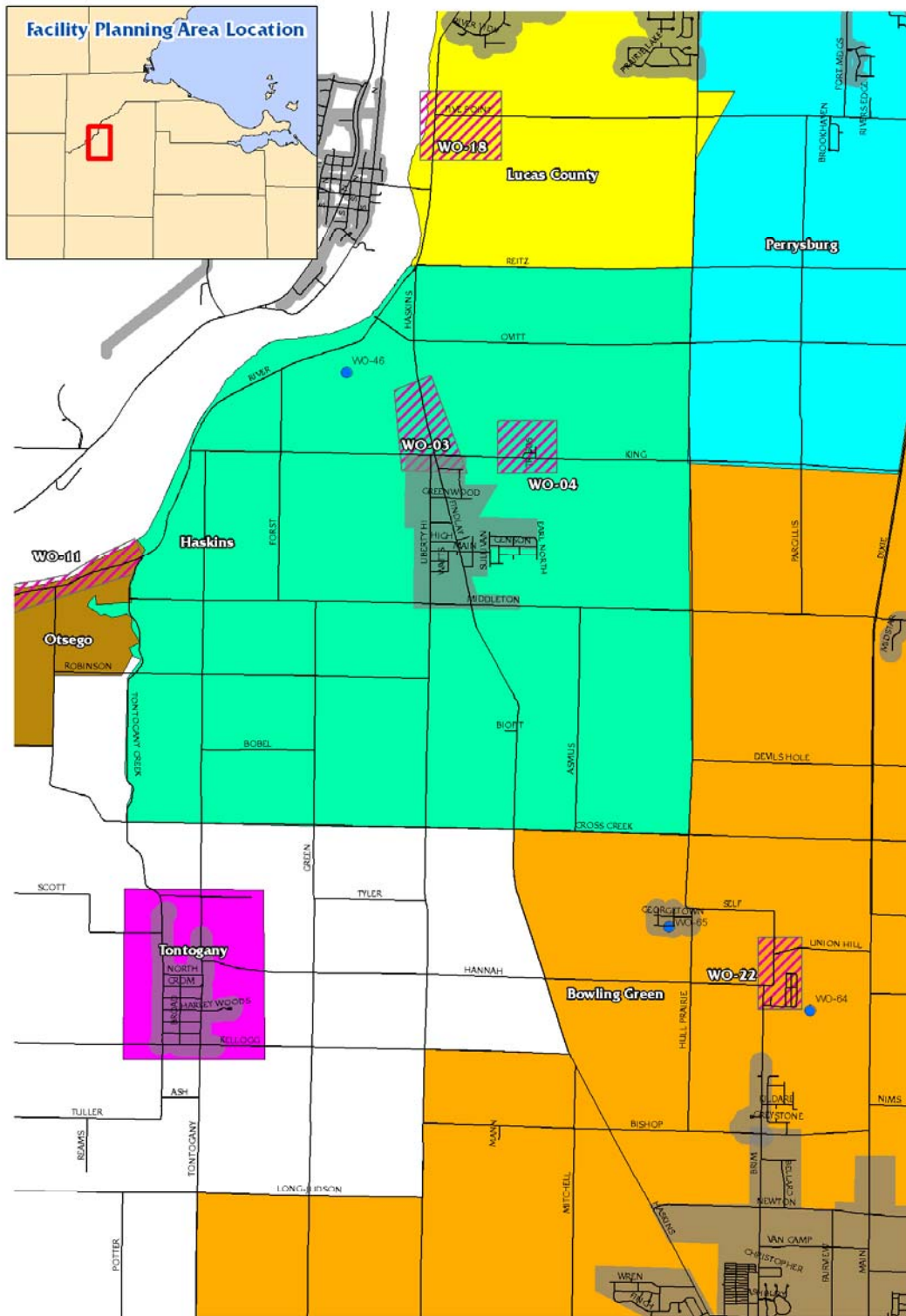
Example Map

An example FPA map is attached. It includes the following:

- Colored areas are Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) delineate potential service areas for publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities.
- The map shows the name of the FPA.
- Shaded grey areas are areas in which public sanitary sewerage service is available now.
- “Package” sewage treatment plants — privately-owned wastewater treatment plants. These are usually small, serving individual businesses. Typically they are required to tap into available and accessible sanitary sewers
- Critical Sewage Areas — significant concentrations of onsite (septic) systems that are known or suspected to have failed; designated at recommendation of the County Health Department.

Contact:

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Legend

- Package Plants
- ▨ Critical Sewage Areas
- Sewered

