



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATES DUMPING OF POLLUTANTS INTO SALT CREEK
Columbus, Ohio, December 23, 2015

The inspector general has issued a report of investigation today initiated after administrators at the Ohio Department of Transportation reported employees had dumped multiple truckloads of polluted dirt and debris into a southern Ohio waterway.

The inspector general launched an investigation in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the U.S. Attorney's Office Environmental Crimes Task Force for Ohio. The multijurisdictional investigation team confirmed a crew from Ohio Department of Transportation District 9 based in Chillicothe was engaged in a ditch-cleaning project along State Route 327 in Ross County. The crew loaded the dirt and debris into dump trucks, drove east into Vinton County to a site just north of the intersection of State Route 327 and State Route 671, and dumped several loads of polluted material over a guardrail. The material slid down an embankment on the east side of State Route 327, and into Salt Creek, a federally protected waterway.

The inspector general determined there was reasonable cause to believe several state employees acted wrongfully and delivered a number of recommendations to the director of the Ohio Department of Transportation. The Ohio Department of Transportation has paid more than \$120,000 in costs for remediation, including a \$35,000 civil penalty paid to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation File Number 2014-CA00032 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2015Investigations.aspx>

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