Ohio Sewage Code Changes 2015
Summit County Public Health
New Rules for the State of Ohio

- On January 1, 2015, a new set of sewage rules went into effect to govern all STS (Sewage Treatment Systems) in the State of Ohio.
- The code it replaces was created in 1977 and was significantly outdated.
- Like most Ohio local health districts, SCPH has maintained a more stringent set of local rules for most of this period of time.

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701–29
State Code Changes:

- Private sewage contractors:
  - Must pass an ODH test prior to registration
  - Must obtain insurance and bonding
- ODH to survey each LHD program every 3 yrs
- Expanded option on soil evaluations
- Elimination of SCPH isolation distance requirements
- System design menu of options increased:
  - Spray irrigation
  - Separate gray water treatment systems
State Code Changes:

- Requires LHD to create operation & maintenance programs
- Requires LHD to issue operation permits
- Septage and sewage management
- More stringent local codes to be reviewed and approved by ODH
- Increased reporting requirements for service providers and pumpers
The State rules provide LHD with limited options on customizing program administration. Some highlights are:

- LHD may regulate small commercial systems
- Waive registration fee, liability insurance, bonding for persons installing their own system
- Adopt fees
- Must establish a plan for development of an operation & maintenance plan
- Establish operation permit terms and conditions
SCPH began O&M inspections in 2004 applying to discharging systems, approximately 11,000 systems were included in this program.

O&M will now be required on all systems, about 33,000 systems will now be included in the program.

Homeowner may have a private service provider inspect and provide maintenance in lieu SCPH inspection and inspection fee.

Service providers must submit inspection data to SCPH.

Mandatory pumping frequency is gone, service providers must measure the sludge in tanks and advise pumping as needed.
Operation Permit and Operation Inspection

- **Operation Inspection**
  - Done by SCPH staff
  - Done on visible components only
  - Done on a Pass/Fail basis

- **Operation Permit**
  - Done by a registered service provider
  - Requires a report to SCPH
  - Has a different set of requirements for each type of system
SCPH will issue an operation permit to owners of each Sewage Treatment System. Owners will need to periodically renew the permits. Owners will need to provide proof of compliance with the permit conditions or be subject to an Operation Inspection by SCPH staff.
In late April of 2015 SCPH will be issuing Operation Permits to all of the following residential septic systems:

- All NPDES systems
- 2007–2013 non-NPDES systems installed in odd years
- Discharging systems installed prior to 2007 in odd years

Approximately 7100 systems will be issued permits

NPDES permits will last 1 year
All other permits will last 2 years
In 2016, Operation Permits will be issued to the following residential septic systems:

- All NPDES systems
- 2008–2014 non-NPDES systems installed in even years
- Discharging systems installed prior to 2007 in even years

Approximately 7100 systems will be issued permits
2017 Operation permits will be issued to the following STS:

- All NPDES systems
- All other STS installed in odd years or if the installation date is unknown systems installed or constructed in odd years

*Approximately 17500 systems will be issued permits*

- Permits issued to on-lot septic systems will last for 2 years
2018 Operation permits will be issued to the following STS:

- All NPDES systems
- All other STSs installed in even years or if the installation date is unknown systems installed or constructed in even years

* Approximately 17500 systems will be issued permits

* All STS will be covered under an Operation Permit
Operation Permit Cost to Home Owners

- NPDES permit will last 1 year and cost $30.00
- On lot septic system permits will last 2 years and cost $20.00
- All other Operation Permits will last 2 years and cost $30.00
What is required of Homeowners

- Homeowners must have an Operation Permit
- Homeowners with NPDES (EPA) approved systems must complete required sampling and have a service contract
- All other homeowners with any type of septic system must either complete the required maintenance or be subject to the SCPH routine inspection program
What is required of Service Providers?

- Each septic system has a set of minimum requirements
- You must submit our inspection report via email or US Mail for each system you service
- SCPH will be doing Quality Assurance inspections on all service providers that choose to provide this required maintenance.
- Reports or comments on forms can be sent via email to servicereports@schd.org
Questions?

- Please feel free to contact Summit County Public Health Water Quality Program
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