

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT ON-LOT DISPOSAL SYSTEM (OLDS) PROGRAM

Why did the Township adopt an OLDS program?

It is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that all local governments in Pennsylvania have a DEP approved Sewage Facilities Plan. The Township is required to establish an On-Lot Disposal System (OLDS) Program as part of its Official Act 537 Sewage Facilities plan. If a municipality fails to submit and receive approval from the DEP, they may impose a suspension not allowing the Township to issue any sewage permits (new, replacement or repair permits). By law, the Township also cannot issue land use permits until a sewage permit has been issued.

How will the Township's OLDS program change the way I currently take care of my septic system?

If you are presently providing regular maintenance to your on-lot sewage system, it will have very little change. Over the next four years all Township property owners will be required to pump out their system at least once every four (4) years. If you currently have your system pumped out on a regular schedule (every year, once every two years, etc.), you should continue to do so.

Property owners must pump their on-lot sewage system once every four (4) years based on the following schedule beginning in July of each year:

Properties located in East Manchester Township Area # 1: Calendar year 2008-2009. Area #1 shall consist of all properties north of Board Road to the Conewago Creek west to Manchester Street.

Properties located in East Manchester Township Area # 2: Calendar year 2009- 2010. Area #2 shall consist of all properties south of Manchester Street, north to Conewago Creek, south to Willow Springs Road and east to the railroad tracks of Norfolk Southern south of Manchester Borough.

Properties located in East Manchester Township Area # 3: Calendar year 2010- 2011. Area #3 shall consist of all properties south east of Board Road, to Susquehanna River, south to the Codorus Creek, west along the Codorus Creek to a point of the properties of the Starview Sportsmen Club, north along Hillview Drive, north along Codorus Furnace Road, north along North Sherman Street to Mount Wolf Borough.

Properties located in East Manchester Township Area # 4: Calendar year 2011 – 2012. Area #4 shall consist of all properties South of North Sherman Street, to the Codorus Creek, northwest along the Township line, to the Norfolk Southern Railroad line, north to Manchester and Mount Wolf Borough lines.

So you're saying that I have to pump out my system every four years. I've used the same on-lot system for thirty years and never had it pumped out. Why should I start having it pumped out now?

According to the Penn State Agriculture and Biological Engineering Department, an un-maintained septic tank is no longer protecting the soil absorption field from solids. In plain language, property owners with un-maintained systems, to some degree or another, are polluting both their own and their neighbor's ground water. Since most Township properties with on-lot systems also have on-lot wells, the need for regular maintenance is extremely important for the health and safety of everyone.

What if I pump out my system every year? How does the OLDS program effect me?

It doesn't. As we stated in the second question, you should continue to maintain your system on your present schedule. The value of the OLDS program is that, for the first time, all properties will have to provide proper maintenance to their system, reducing the potential for groundwater pollution.

My family just moved into our home here in the Township. How do I know when I have to pump out my system?

First, reread the section in the enclosed letter from the Township, which describes the initial pumping schedule, and determine which Area you live in. Once you know which Area your property is located in, you must have your system pumped within the year listed for for that Area. After the four-year cycle is completed, the Township will automatically send a reminder to the property owner, at the beginning of the year, notifying them that they are scheduled for pumping.

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I live in Area# 2 and according to the Township's schedule I must pump out my system before July 1, 2010. I usually have my system pumped every three or four years and I just had it pumped last summer. Do you mean that I have to have my system pumped again?

If you pumped your system within two (2) years of your notification, and can submit documents to the Township, you may be considered to be in compliance with the ordinance. The new date your system must be pumped will be in the next two (2) year cycle for your Area.

My wife and I now live alone. We don't generate as much wastewater as we once did when our children lived at home. Shouldn't the size of my septic tank and the fact that it's just the two of us mean that we could pump out our system less frequently than the required four years?

Enclosed with this mailing is a chart taken from a publication by The Penn State Agriculture and Biological Engineering Department entitled "Septic Tank Pumping". <http://www.age.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/f/F161.pdf> The chart shows the estimated pumping frequencies based on tank size and the number of persons per household. Based on the schedule shown on the Penn state chart, the four-year pumping schedule is a longer period than recommended for most Township households. However, upon written request, the Township may allow septic tanks to be pumped out less frequently, if the owner can demonstrate to the Township that the system can operate properly without the need for pumping for a period longer than four (4) years, but in no case shall such period extend beyond six (6) years.

Will I still be able to use my present septic tank pumper?

As of January 13, 2004, all septage pumpers operating in East Manchester Township must be licensed with the County of York. Refer to the list of septage pumpers/haulers who have obtained a license from the County of York. Property owners are may call whichever company they wish from the septage pumper/hauler list.

The pumping company I normally use is not on the list. What do I do?

If the pumping company you regularly use is not on the list, you should urge them to contact the County and obtain a license. They must be licensed before they can pump systems in East Manchester Township.

In your letter announcing the OLDS program, you mentioned that the Pumper is required to fill out a report form. What is this form, what is for, and will I get a copy?

The County has provided all licensed pumpers with Septic Tank Pumper's Report forms. When your pumper comes to your property to pump out your system, he will fill out a form that notes the name and address of the property, describes the location of the system on the property, the size of the tank and what maintenance, if any, was done or needs to be done to the system. The Pumper should give you a copy of the report for your records, one to keep in his files and one to the Township for its records. The Septic Tank Pumper's Report form is for information purposes only.

My pumper says I need some repairs done to my system. Can he go ahead and do the work?

It depends on the type of repairs needed. Routine maintenance, replacement of baffles, installation of extentions (risers), or snaking the lines can be done by the pumper or a plumber without a sewage permit. State law requires sewage permits be issued by the Township's SEO for any alteration of the system or its use. This would include the replacement or installation of additional septic tanks, repair of delivery lines, or replacement of a drain field. If you have any questions, please contact the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer, David Brown at 717-741-4621, or the Alternate SEO, Robert Whitmore at 717-332-1525.

This program seems pretty simple, but whom do I call if I have a question?

For answers to general questions about the program, call the Township Office at 717-266-6735, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If you have specific or technical questions about your on-lot sewage disposal system, or concerns about a possible sewage malfunction you should contact the Township's SEO David Brown, at 717-741-4621 or the Alternate SEO Robert Whitmore, at 717-332-1525.