



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

June 9, 2005

TO: Septage Receiving Facility Operators
Treating Septage Waste

FROM: Matthew Campbell, Septage Waste Program Coordinator
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Section
Lansing Operations Division
Water Bureau

SUBJECT: DEQ Septage Receiving Facility
Operating Plan Requirements

Your wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has been identified as one that accepts domestic septage for treatment. Your capacity to provide this very important service plays an integral role in protecting the public health and environment of Michigan. The amendments to the Septage Waste Servicers law and continued growth in the total number of on-site wastewater treatment systems are expected to increase the need for septage receiving facilities. Domestic septage includes liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable toilet, type III marine sanitation device, or similar storage or treatment works that receives only domestic sewage. Wastewater treatment plants accepting domestic septage are now defined as a "receiving facility" in the recently amended septage law.

A memo was sent to you by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on October 28, 2004, to inform you that House Bill 5771 and 5772 were signed into law on October 12, 2004, by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. The Bills amend Part 117, Septage Waste Servicers, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451. Part 117 regulates the pumping, disposal, and land application of septage waste.

Receiving facilities, **both private and public** wastewater treatment plants that accept septage waste for treatment, are required to develop and submit operating plans to the DEQ for review. Please note that this is different than an operation and maintenance manual. Existing receiving facilities have until October 12, 2005, to submit their operating plans to the DEQ for review and approval to maintain compliance under Part 117.

The basic Operating Plan includes the following:

- location of the septage receiving facility
- hours of operation
- categories of septage waste your receiving facility will accept
- fee structure charged to the hauler to dispose of septage for treatment
- service area of your septage receiving facility

- any other conditions for receiving septage waste established by the receiving facility

Conditions regarding septage acceptance at your wastewater treatment plant may include receiving facility capacity (hydraulic and organic), volume of septage received, odor control, and other information required under Part 41, Sewerage Systems, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451.

We must also advise you of the requirement to provide public notification before you submit your operating plan to the DEQ for review and approval, pursuant to section 11715b of Part 117. For more details on this requirement, please see item 1 on pages 2 and 3.

We hope that you decide to continue to accept septage waste for treatment. If so, please fill out and submit the attached information to the address listed below. This is the basic information that must be contained in your Operating Plan as mandated by Part 117. The DEQ will review your Operating Plan, and when we determine that it is complete, we will approve your receiving facility for continued septage acceptance and treatment.

We request that your Operating Plan be submitted by September 1, 2005, so we may have time to review and approve it by the October 12, 2005, deadline. Doing this will ensure that you may continue the acceptance of septage at your receiving facility. The DEQ will post the approved operating plans on the DEQ Septage Program website.

Name of receiving facility (wastewater treatment plant)

Name of Superintendent/Chief Operator of receiving facility

Date

Check this box if domestic septage is not accepted at your receiving facility (WWTP) and mail back to the address listed below.

1. If you plan to continue receiving septage waste for treatment at your receiving facility you are required to do the following (see Sec. 11715b. of Part 117) before submitting your proposed operating plan to the DEQ for review and approval:

(a) Publish notice of the proposed operating plan in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the receiving facility is located.

(b) If the person maintains a website, post notice of the proposed operating plan on its website.

(c) Submit notice of the proposed operating plan by first-class mail to the county health department and the legislative body of each city, village, and township located in whole or in part within the service area of the wastewater treatment plant to which the receiving facility is connected.

Notice of a proposed operating plan shall contain all of the following:

(a) A statement that the receiving facility proposes to receive or, is currently receiving septage waste, and will continue to receive septage waste for treatment.

(b) A copy of the proposed operating plan or a statement where the operating plan is available for review during normal business hours.

(c) A request for written comments on the proposed operation of the receiving facility and the deadline for receipt of such comments, which shall be not less than 30 days after publication, posting, or mailing of the notice.

The following information is needed in your Operating Plan submittal to the DEQ for review and approval:

2. The category of septage waste that your receiving facility will accept for treatment. The categories are described below:

Domestic septage – the septage pumped from home septic tanks, recreational vehicles (RV), cesspool, portable toilet, type III marine sanitation device, or similar storage or treatment works that receives only domestic sewage.

Domestic treatment plant septage (solids) – means biosolids generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works and transported to a receiving facility or managed in accordance with a residuals management program approved by the department.

Food establishment septage – material pumped from a grease interceptor, grease trap, or other appurtenance used to retain grease or other fatty substances contained in restaurant wastes and that is blended into a uniform mixture, consisting of not more than 1 part of that restaurant-derived material per 3 parts of domestic septage, prior to land application or disposed of at a receiving facility.

3. Receiving facility capacity. Include both available hydraulic (gallons per day) and organic capacity (pounds per day of 5-day biochemical oxygen demand) for septage waste. Include the current approximate daily average and peak daily flow in gallons per day of septage received at the facility.

4. Include a detailed description of your receiving facility service area. This is the territory for which your receiving facility has the capacity and is available to receive and treat septage waste. Please keep in mind that your receiving facility is subject to the following:

- The service area can be up to 15 radial miles from the receiving facility beginning October 12, 2005, through October 12, 2010.
- On October 12, 2010, the receiving facility's service area can be as large as 25 radial miles from the center of the plant.

If the above referenced service areas exceed the ability of the receiving facility to treat septage waste, the receiving facility can define their own service area as long as it does not exceed the limits imposed by Part 117 (Sec. 11701 (s)(i)(ii)).

5. List the hours of operation for receiving septage waste at your receiving facility.
6. List any other conditions for receiving septage waste established by the receiving facility (for example, maximum daily septage volume allowed based on the receiving facility maximum allowable headworks loading, or potential adverse effects on the WWTP, odor control procedures, pertinent procedures from operation manuals, etc.).

If you need assistance with or have any questions regarding your Operating Plan, please call Mr. Matt Campbell, at 517-335-4178. Please return the completed forms to the address below:

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Water Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
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