

BRANCH – HILLSDALE - ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY

570 Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561
(517) 278-2923 Fax

20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395 or (888) 544-7395
(517) 437-0166 Fax

1110 Hill Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161 or (800) 258-1092
(269) 273-2452 Fax

CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Policy regarding evaluation of an existing sewage disposal system where the applicant has proposed to connect a replacement home or structure to previously installed well and septic tank systems.

1. If there is a change of ownership, then a full evaluation of both the well and sewage systems will be required (mortgage evaluation).
2. If the property ownership has not changed and a new dwelling is proposed, the following procedure shall apply:

I. If there is an existing approved permit on file at the Community Health Agency

A. Evaluate sewage system to determine if sub-surface disposal system is still functioning.

(1) If unable to determine the location of sub-surface disposal area using the information available on the permit drawing, the property owner must locate and uncover the corners of drain bed, trenches, and/or lid(s) of dry well(s).

(2) Borings are to be made in the area of the sub-surface disposal system to determine if saturated. If the stone is saturated, it will not be approved.

(3) If drywells more than half full then do not approve.

(4) If the system has not been used for an extended period of time, the location and size of the sub-surface absorption system must still be determined. The approval will be based on the adequacy of the reserve area. (See procedures in III below).

B. If the septic tank size indicated on the permit is less than 750 gallons, the septic tank capacity shall be increased to the requirement of the present Environmental Health Code.

C. Septic tank must be isolated at least 45 feet from well or suction line (this is standard variance for existing septic tanks installed prior to 1975). Sub-surface disposal area must be at least 50 feet from well.

II. If no permit indicating approval is on file at the Community Health Agency.

A. The septic tank and sub-surface disposal area shall be located by owner. (as in I.A.I)

(1) Septic tank shall be pumped and volume certified by licensed septic tank cleaner. The condition of an approved outlet device must also be determined by H.D. or licensed septic tank cleaner.

(2) Septic tank and absorption area must be properly isolated from well serving the premise and existing wells on adjacent premises. Increased isolation distances are required for Type I, II and III wells.

B. Evaluate sub-surface disposal system to determine if it is still functioning.

(1) If owner unable to locate sub-surface disposal area, a new sub-surface disposal area shall be required for approval.

(2) If sub-surface disposal area is found, the corners of the drain bed, the ends of trenches, and/or the lid(s) of drywell(s) shall be uncovered.

(3) Borings are to be made in the area of the sub-surface disposal system to determine if saturated. If the stone is saturated, it will not be approved.

(4) If drywells more than half full, then do-not approve.

(5) If the system has not been used for an extended period of time, the location and size of the sub-surface absorption system must still be determined. Approval will be based on the adequacy of the reserve area. (See procedures in III below).

III. Procedure for determining adequate replacement area for sub-surface disposal system shall be as follows:

A. Area – To determine if adequate space is available, the following factors are considered:

- (1) water table
- (2) soil permeability
- (3) adjacent development - wells, sewage systems etc.
- (4) planned additions, rooms, patios, porches, garages, driveways, outbuildings

B. Provide sketch on form showing location of reserve area, location of adjacent wells etc. Applicant and sanitarian sign form.