

**New Property Owner Sewage Program Review of Operation and Maintenance**

Ohio Revised Code 3718.02 mandates a database and operation and maintenance (O &M) program within the state for any septic system. The Ohio Department of Health passed the new rules for household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) in 2015. The new rules for off-lot discharging systems are very similar to our then current code with regards to this operation and maintenance program for discharging septic systems. Although this department has incorporated a policy of only passively adding off-lot systems to the program (found during an initiated file review) the new rules will have to include all previously installed systems. The systems are deemed to have their installations approved; however they still must have an ongoing operation and maintenance program called an operation permit.

On-lot systems are not included in this initial roll-out program. On-lot systems leach the effluent through the soil in a designated area. These are to be addressed later. Off-lot discharging systems discharge treated or untreated sewage to tile lines, drainage ways, ditches and occasionally the surface of the ground. A few examples of systems that will fall under the scope of the initial program are:

1. Aerators which discharge to any of the above mentioned places;
2. Septic tanks that go through a filter bed and the discharge to any of the above mentioned places;
3. Septic tanks that discharge directly to one of these locations.
4. Similar systems or unknown systems that discharge treated or untreated sewage via an outlet pipe to one of these locations with some sort of secondary treatment.

Resolution 04-09-2015 and 01-16-2020 of the Wayne County Health Department stipulates the process of an annual permit with \$25 fee for those systems listed above and provide them with the option of having the Wayne County Health Department perform an inspection for a cost of \$50 or having a registered service provider submit paperwork documenting the ongoing maintenance of the system in the form of a contract (both fees waived). Should a homeowner fail to pay the current law allows the Health Commissioner to certify the missing amount plus late fees to the County Auditor for collection as a special assessment on the taxes. This is to ensure that all off-lot discharging systems are covered under an ongoing operation and maintenance program. The Wayne County Health Department currently has approximately 1500 such systems within our database.