

Lake County General Health District

Mandatory Operation & Maintenance Program for HSTSs

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What is the O&M Program?

- The Operation & Maintenance program is a statewide initiative to ensure proper ongoing system maintenance of Home Sewage Treatment Systems to protect public health and minimize pollution of Ohio waters.
- Local implementation **mandated** by Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in 2015 rule update
- Will affect **ALL** HSTSs



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Why were O&M rules passed?

- “Approximately **31%** of all household sewage treatment systems throughout the state of Ohio are experiencing some degree of failure.” — ODH 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey Report
- For Northeast Ohio, was estimated at **38%**
- Although several factors affect system performance (age, water usage, soils, etc.), ongoing maintenance is a significant factor *we can control*

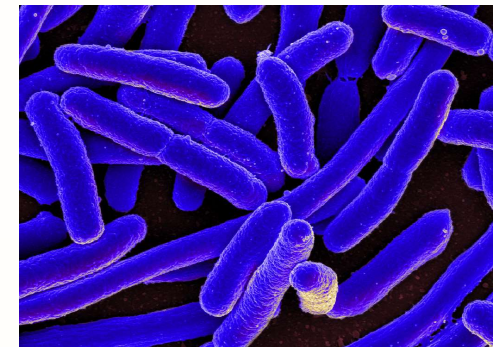


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Reasons to Maintain your HSTS

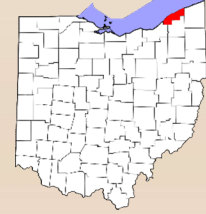
- Safe, Effective, & Enduring Operation
- Protection of individual and community investments
- Decreased impact on water quality and the environment



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Basic Overview



- It is estimated that there are approximately 13-15,000 Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) in Lake County
- **ALL** are scheduled to be enrolled in program by end of 2024



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LCGHD Program Set Up

- Systems are being entered in phases by system type and location (based on HSTS records on file at LCGHD)
- Different systems require different maintenance
- Permit compliance will be determined based on submission of maintenance documentation, such as service contracts, service inspections or pump reports



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Phased Approach



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Thus Far



- **Phase 1 (2015-2016):** Enrolled all new, replacement, & alteration HSTS installations permitted after January 1, 2015 as well as all discharging HSTS permitted after January 1, 2007 (NPDES). Enrollment of systems is ongoing as new permits are finalized.
- **Phase 2 (2017):** Enrolled all discharging HSTS permitted prior to January 1, 2007.
- **Phase 3 (2018):** Enrolled all Drip Distribution and Mound Systems.



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Thus Far



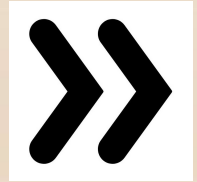
- **Phase 4 (2019):** Enroll all STS located in our Subdivisions
- This inherently includes a wide variety of system types and thus permit types
- Some subdivisions prior to O&M enforced their own deed restrictions relating to Operation & Maintenance of HSTS
- To date, 7926 systems have been enrolled



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Moving Forward



- **Phase 5 (2020-2024):** Enroll all HSTSs not entered under any previous phase
- Mostly consists of variations on a “tank to soil absorption component” system designs
- Enrollment priority will be given to:
 - Remaining systems consisting of mechanical pretreatment (Aeration Treatment Unit – ATU)
 - Any systems determined to have been “missed” in earlier phases
 - Voluntary POS Evaluations



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Initial Permitting Process



- Owners are notified by mail at least 1 month prior to fee due date to obtain an operational permit. The fee assessed, permit term, and permit requirements depend on system type.
- Renewal will be required either annually or every 5 years depending on the system type



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Permit Term Length by Risk

1 Year Permit – High Risk

- Systems with mechanical treatment components or complex maintenance requirements
 - NPDES/Spray Irrigation
 - Any System with an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU)
 - Drip Distribution Systems

5 Year Permit – Low Risk

- Non-Mechanical Treatment to a Soil Absorption Component
 - Septic Tank to Sand Mound
 - Septic Tank to Leach Lines
 - Septic Tank to Subsurface Sand Filter Bed
 - Other



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Permit Costs & Conditions

System Type	Permit Term	Permit Cost Per Term	Permit Conditions / Service Requirements Per Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NPDES Discharging ➤ Spray Irrigation 	1 Year	\$160*	Current Service Contract / 2 Service Reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post-2007: Pretreatment to Soil Absorption ➤ Post-2007 Drip Distribution 	1 Year	\$40	Current Service Contract / 2 Service Reports (or as per manufacturer requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pre-2007 Pretreatment to Soil Absorption ➤ Pre-2007 Drip Distribution ➤ Pre-2007 Discharging 	1 Year	\$40	1 Service Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Septic Tank to Soil Absorption 	5 Years	\$100	1 Pump Report (or Service Report)

*Includes Annual LCGHD Sample Cost



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Buyer Beware



- If you, or the previous homeowner did not pay for the operation permit in the previous year, it will be assessed to the property taxes in August
- Having an operation permit does not guarantee current or future performance
- Operation permits are issued based on records on file at LCGHD. (Records may be unavailable, incomplete, or inaccurate)



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Vacant Homes



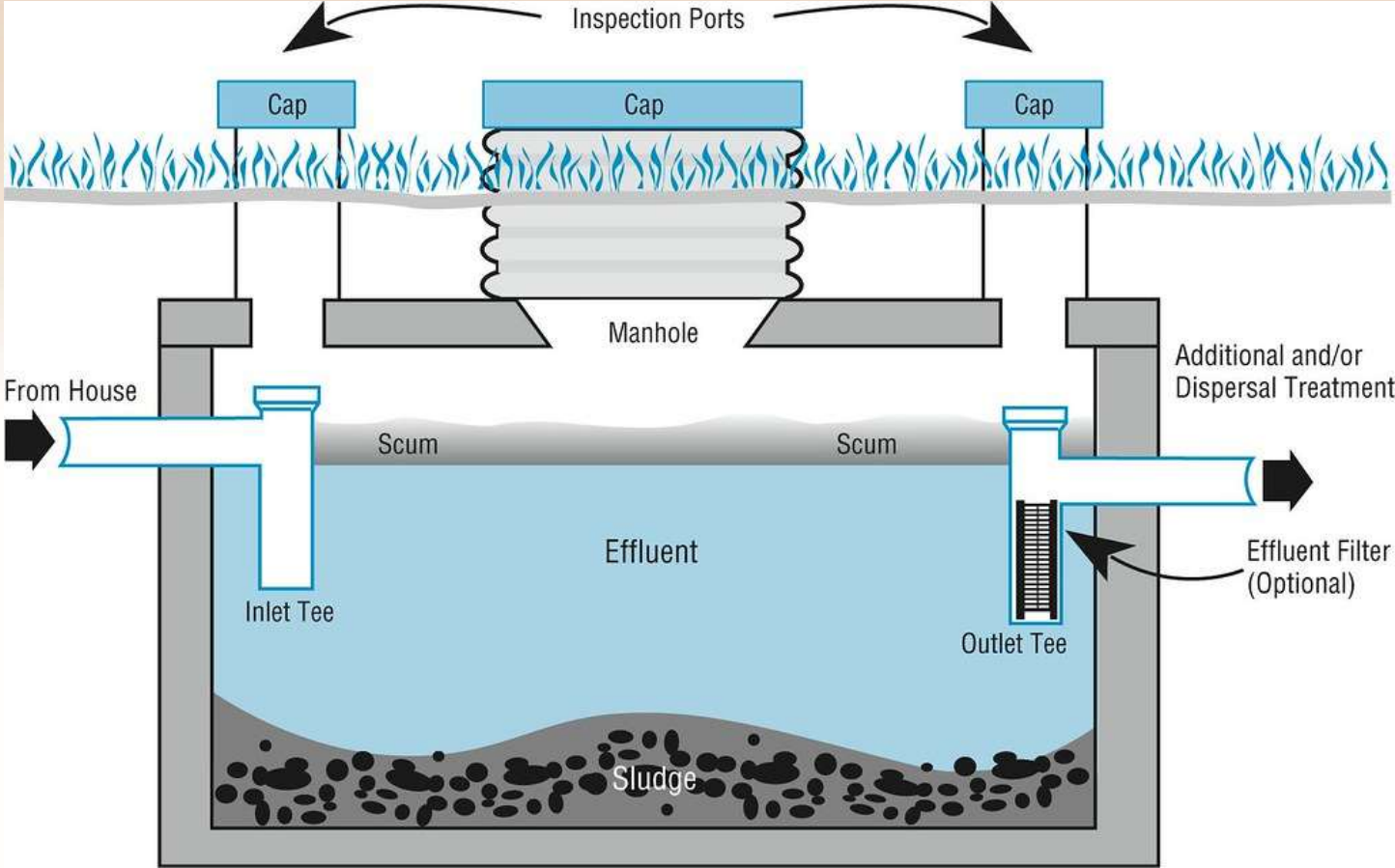
- Vacant homes may have been determined exempt and may not have a valid current Operational Permit.
- Upon re-occupancy LCGHD must be contacted for re-entry into the program
- For house demolitions and re-builds, an install permit is likely required; call Health Department



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Questions?



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Thank You!

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