



Van Wert County General Health District

Household Sewage Treatment System
Operation and Maintenance Program

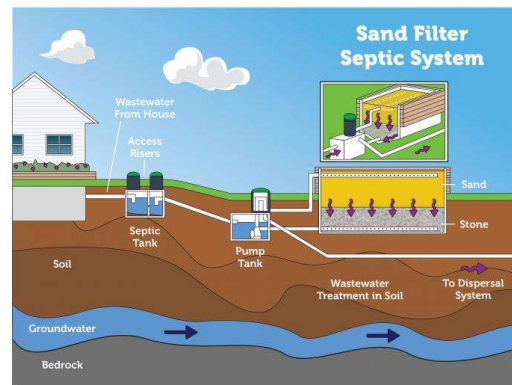
Ohio Law and Regulations

- ▶ In 2015, new guidance was implemented requiring health departments to establish an operation and maintenance permitting program for sewage treatment systems. The purpose of the revision is to ensure that systems are being maintained properly, not causing a public health nuisance and help educate home owners.
- ▶ Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-19
- ▶ Ohio Revised Code 3718.02 (A)(7)



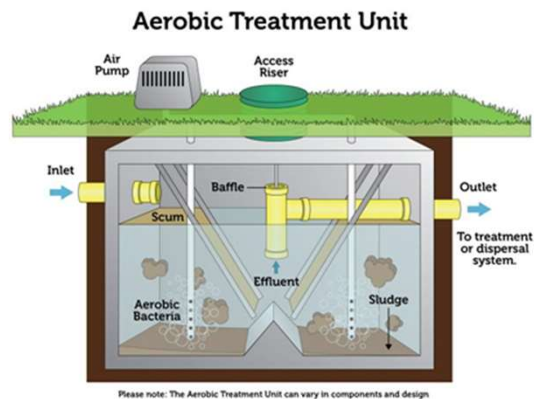
Importance of the O&M Program

- ▶ This is a state mandated program that has not been implemented or enforced in Van Wert County until this year
- ▶ Different types of systems require specialized maintenance that may get neglected by homeowners
- ▶ Neglecting maintenance of these systems can cause them to fail sooner, causing a public health nuisance and possibly contaminate ground water



Van Wert County's O&M Plan 2021

- ▶ The following systems will be added to the O&M program this year:
 - ▶ Permitted systems from 2010-present
 - ▶ All NPDES systems
 - ▶ Real estate inspections and transfers in 2021
 - ▶ Homes voluntarily added to the program by owners
- ▶ Anticipate adding 200+ properties for the first permit period



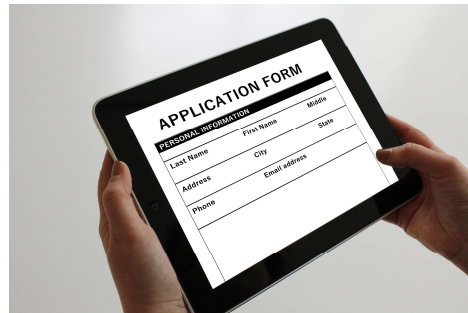
Van Wert County's 5 year plan

- ▶ 2022
 - ▶ 2004-2009 permitted systems
 - ▶ 2022 real estate inspections/transfers
 - ▶ Volunteers
 - ▶ Remaining properties from 2021
- ▶ 2023, 2024, 2025
 - ▶ Real estate inspections/transfers
 - ▶ Volunteers
 - ▶ 4 townships each year



Permit Application Process

- ▶ July 15, 2021 the selected homeowners will receive their first letter explaining the permit requirements and the required fee of \$50 every 5 years.
- ▶ Homeowners will choose between three options to satisfy the evaluation requirements
 - ▶ Have a registered service provider complete the evaluation
 - ▶ Submit proof of maintenance within the past 1-2 years
 - ▶ Request a sanitarian complete the evaluation



Evaluations

- ▶ Evaluations will be completed throughout the year when the ground is not frozen or saturated
- ▶ They will be visual evaluations of the system's tank, secondary treatment, and outlet (when applicable)
- ▶ If a public health nuisance is observed, VWCGHD will work with the homeowner to resolve the issue



Please note: The number of compartments in a septic tank vary by state and region.

Permit

- ▶ After the evaluation is completed, the homeowner will then receive the following in the mail:
 - ▶ Evaluation sheet with recommendations
 - ▶ Permit for 5 years
 - ▶ Evaluations completed this year will have a permit period that will expire in 2027
 - ▶ Homeowner education information sheets



Take Away

- ▶ The goal of this program is to ensure that household sewage treatment systems are operating as designed and installed
- ▶ The homeowner will be provided education materials about their system and how to properly operate and maintain it
- ▶ Properly maintaining a system will increase its longevity
- ▶ Just because the system is out of sight does not mean it should be out of mind
- ▶ The department is not trying to have everyone replace their system but rather get a baseline of the types and conditions of the systems in the county

- ▶ Questions??