



~ Operation and Maintenance ~

Mahoning County Public Health
Public Meeting/Legal Announcement
November 16, 2021
Colton Masters, Environmental Health Director



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mahoning County Public Health

What Is O&M?

Operation and Maintenance

(Specifically dealing with Septic Systems)



Why Are We Holding This Meeting?

- Education on the O&M program
- Its purpose and details
- Its benefits and costs



Rules and Supplemental Rules

- Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29
 - Adopted on January 1, 2015 (given 10 years to comply)
- STS Operation and Maintenance Management - OAC 3701-29-19
 - The Board of Health **shall** develop a program for the Administration of O&M management for HSTS (Household Sewage Treatment System) and GWRS (Grey Water Recycling System) and owner education in compliance with division A(7) of section 3718.02 of the Revised Code and this chapter.
- ORC 3718.02A(7)
 - Requires Each Board of Health to develop a program for the administration of maintenance requirements established in rules adopted under division A(3)(c) of this section.....



Operation and Maintenance Program

- OAC 3701-29-09 (I)
 - No person shall operate a STS (Sewage Treatment Systems) or a type 2, 3, 4 GWRS without an approved and valid operation permit from the BOH.
 - The BOH shall specify any terms and conditions of the operational permit....
 - Any operational permit shall expire at the frequency determined by the board of health.



Why implement such a program?

- Mandated by Law
- Benefits to the Individual:
 - Longer lasting System
 - Increased system knowledge
- Benefits to community:
 - Less failing Septic Systems
 - Cleaner Surface Water
 - Protects Ground/Drinking Water



Question: If this has been in place since 2015, why are we just now starting it?

- Given 10 years to implement the program
- Lessons learned from other counties
- Deferred due to Covid



O&M: Who already participates?

- All NPDES Off-Lot Discharging HSTS
 - These are systems that treat wastewater and discharge clean water to the surface.
 - These are EPA approved systems and have been required to have an O&M permit.



Who must participate according to the ORC & OAC?

- All HSTS installed both Before and After January 1, 2015 (OAC 3701-29-19)

This program does not apply to commercial wastewater systems; they are regulated separately



Future of O&M Program

- Mahoning County HSTS – estimated 17,000+
- Year-long plan to incorporate all HSTS in the O&M program.
 - To come into compliance with the Law
- Operational permits will be issued with specific requirements.
- Operational fee will be submitted to LHDs-keeping it affordable for both sides.



HSTS Levels

- Level 1 (Least Maintenance)
 - 3-year permit
 - \$30 per year (\$90 total)
- Level 2
 - 1 year permit
 - \$40 per year
- Level 3 (Most Maintenance)
 - 1 year permit
 - \$125 per year



Why Do We Need to Charge a Fee?

- Having this program is mandatory
- The state will not be funding this program
- We are hiring additional staff to be able to better accommodate the public's questions and provide the necessary education to homeowners.
- General costs associated (i.e., mailing and supplies)



How Were The Fees Established?

- Summit, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Trumbull, Stark, Medina

	Average Fees (Per year) For other departments listed above:	MCPH (Proposed) (Per year)	Difference	Final Determination
Level 1	~\$25.00	\$40.00	-\$15.00	\$30.00
Level 2	~\$40.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Level 3	~\$110.00	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$125.00



Cost Comparison

Average Mahoning County Sanitary Rate

- Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 12.30 =
- \$ 123.30 + \$ 11.25 Fixed monthly fee.
 - On average most a house of 4 will use approximately 10,000 gallons a month
- **Average monthly rate \$134.55**
 - **Yearly average \$ 1,614.60**



Cost Comparison

MCPH O&M Cost for a HSTS Owner

- Level 1
- \$90.00 / 3 years = \$30.00 per year
 - Pumping average is \$350.00
- **Average monthly rate \$12.22**
 - **Yearly average \$ 146.67**



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Question: So what do you do with the money?

- Staff
- Mailing Fees
- Educational materials as needed
- Supplies



Level 1 Systems

- On-lot, non-mechanical treatment systems
 - Example: Septic Tank to a Leach Field
 - Few mechanical parts
 - Less maintenance required
 - 3-year O&M permit
 - Requires a pumping report or inspection prior to the reissuance of the O&M permit.



Level 2 Systems

- Pretreatment to On-lot systems/
 - Non-NPDES Discharging Systems Example: Mound Systems, Drip Systems
 - 1 year Permit
 - Yearly Service Contract Required
 - No Sampling is Required
- This level acts as a catch all level for new systems that may be developed or used, and systems that do not fit into the other 2 categories.



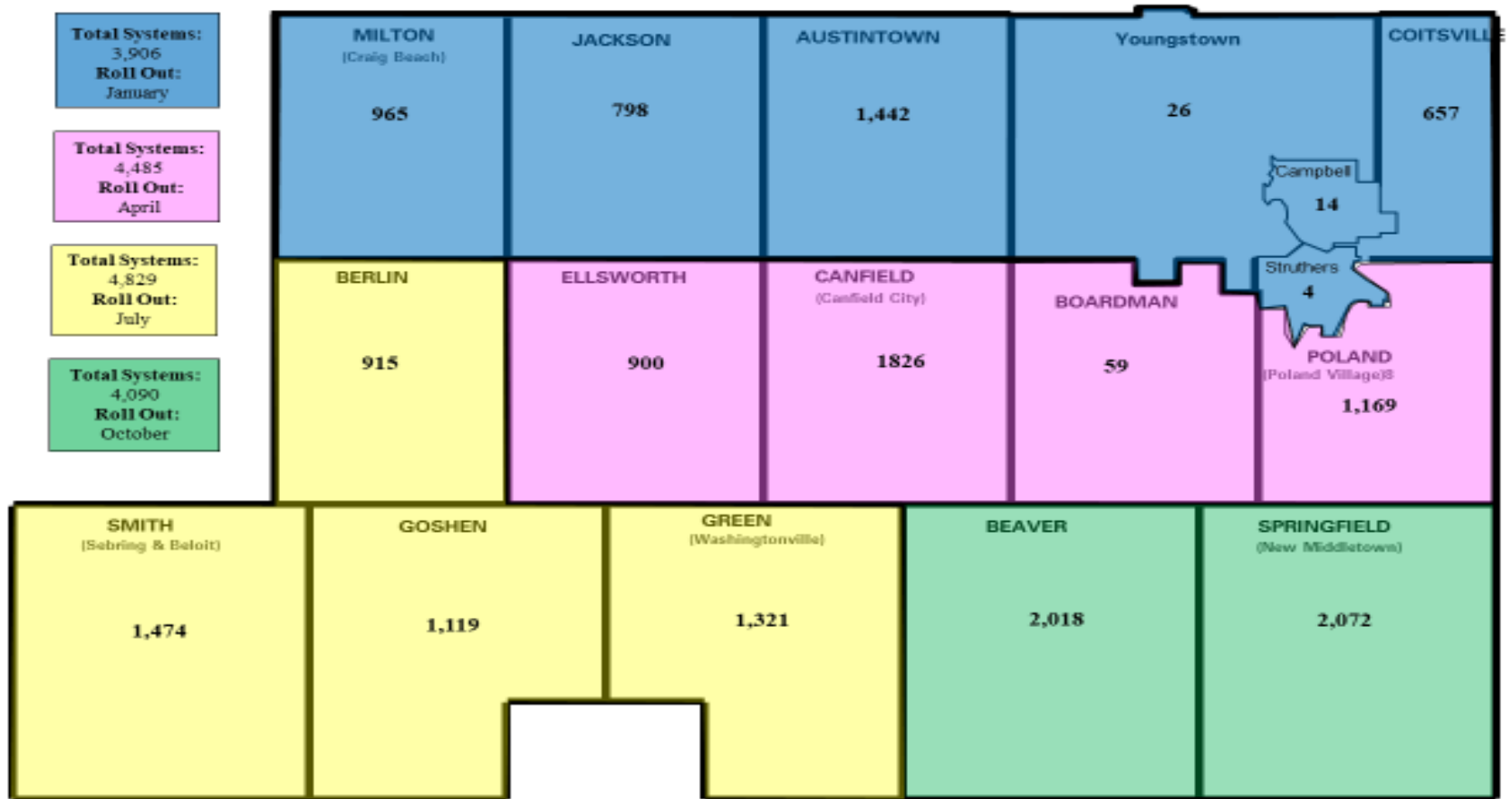
Level 3 Systems

- Off-Lot NPDES-Discharging systems
 - Currently have an O&M permit
 - Require yearly sampling (built into the price of the permit)
 - 1 year permit
 - Require a yearly service contract



Roll Out of Program

Mahoning County District Board of Health Operation and Maintenance Program Roll Out



Notification Process

- Letters will go out on or around the beginning of the month noted on the previous map.
- The due date for payment and submission of materials is 30 days after the mailing date.



Notification Process

- If mail is returned; or residents have not met that due date, a certified letter will be sent out regarding the renewal after the due date.
- No late fee is added until 30 days after the sending of the certified letter.

Note, both Payment and Proof of compliance (i.e., service contract/pumping report) are required to renew this permit



Penalties/Late Fees

- If payment is not received 30 days after the certified letter is sent, a 25% late fee (mandated by law) is added to the initial fee.
- If the fee that is not paid will be assessed to the property taxes by the auditor.
(ORC 3709.091)



Penalties / Late Fees

- If required documentation is not received, a penalty inspection is initiated meaning that the system must be evaluated for failure by the Sanitarians. The current fee for this is \$180 and may also be assessed to the taxes if not paid.
- Systems found to not be operating properly will be required to be repaired or replaced.



Future of O&M Program

- ORC 3709-091(B)
 - Failure to pay for permit – BOH will issue the permit and apply fee to the taxes.
- Failure to meet the condition of the permit will result in an inspection and fee set by the Board of Health.
 - Current fee is \$180.00



Practical Application

- Beaver and Springfield Township are the last to Enroll/Renew (October)
- On/around October 1st a notice and FAQ will be sent to a property owner.
- If the owner does not pay and submit documentation before October 31st, a certified Letter will be sent.
- If the payment and documentation are not received by November 30th a 25% late fee will be added to the amount owed and the fees will be assessed to the taxes. Also, a penalty Inspection will be initiated by the MCPH Sanitarians.



Question: What if I submit documentation, but don't pay the fee?

- The unpaid fees will go onto the taxes, but no penalty inspection will be initiated.



Question: What if I pay the fee, but don't submit the documentation?

- A penalty inspection will be initiated (current cost of \$180.00)
- The Sanitarian will verify if the system is functioning
- A contact/pumping report will still be required to come into compliance.



Important!!!!

- The homeowner is responsible for getting the pumping reports or service contracts to MCPH
- These will be able to be submitted online, through our website, sent in the mail or brought into our main office.



Important!!!!

- Please send a copy of the documentation to us.
- **Keep the Original !!!!**
- Reach out to us if there is a problem.



Question: I think I have a different system type than what is listed on my letter, what can I do?

- If you need clarification on your level or system type, you may contact MCPH.



Question: I transitioned from a Septic System to Sanitary, but I still got a letter about O&M. What should I do?

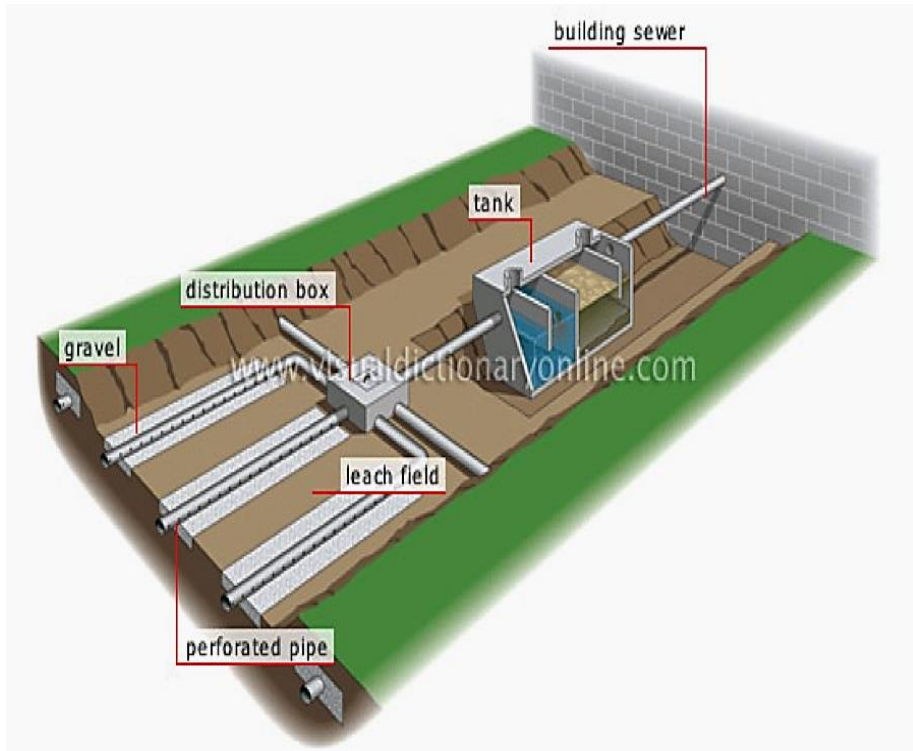
- If you think you have mistakenly received a letter, contact our office (MCPH) and a Sanitarian will evaluate your situation.
- There is no need to have an O&M permit if you are on Sanitary Sewer, but you must contact us to avoid receiving additional notices and/or fines.



Permit to Operate Level 1: Holding Tanks

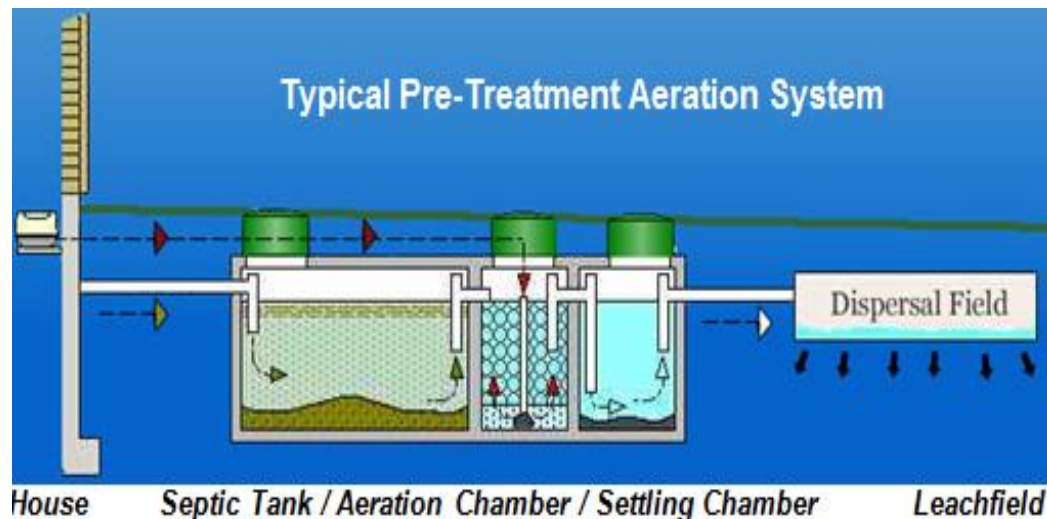


Permit to Operate Level 1: Septic Tank to Leaching Component



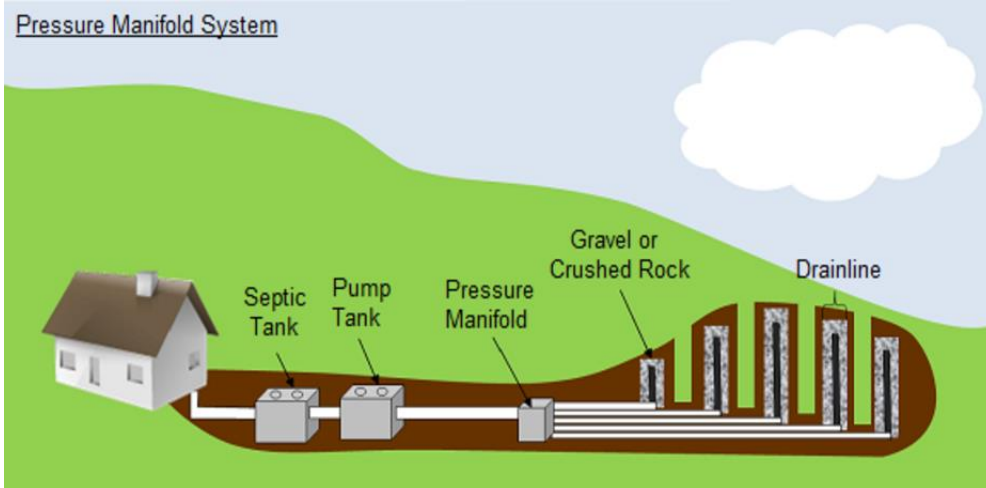
Permit to Operate

Level 2: Pretreatment to Leaching Component



Permit to Operate Level 2: Low Pressure Distribution Systems (Includes Mounds)

Pressure Manifold System

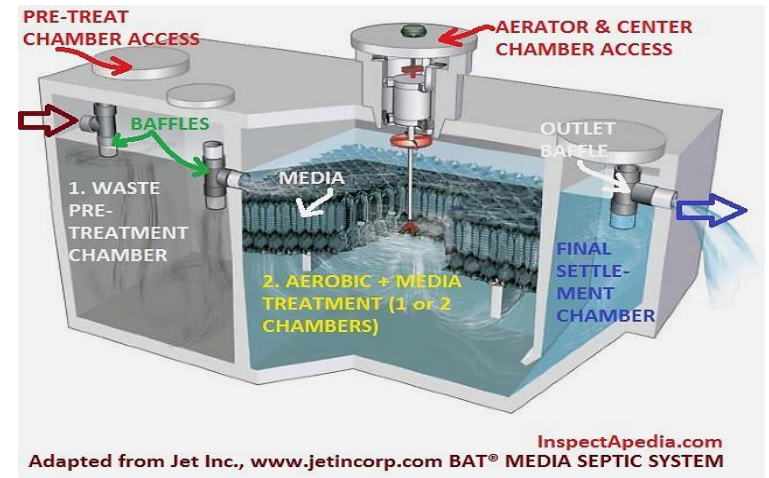
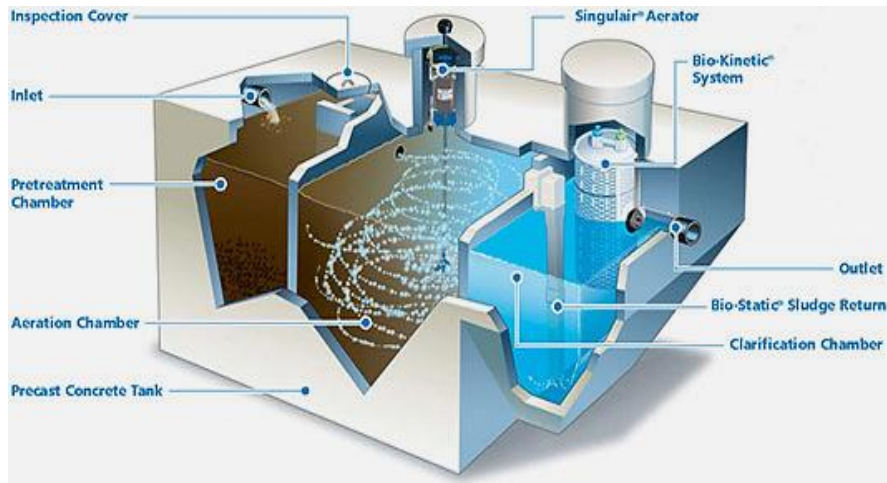


Permit to Operate Level 2: Drip and Spray Distribution

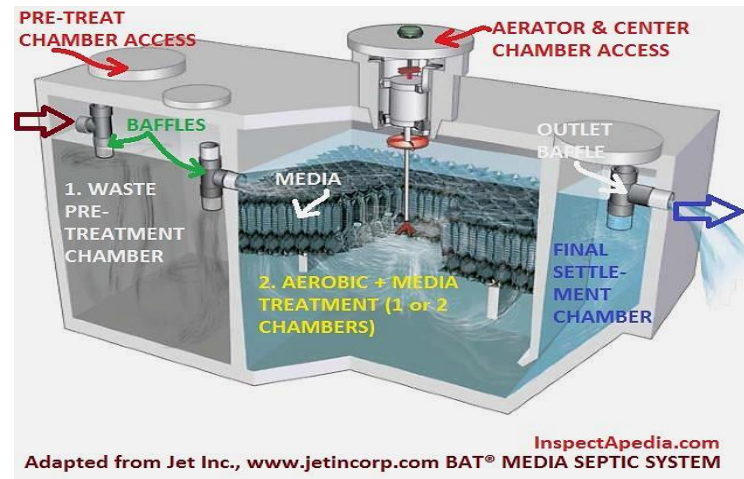
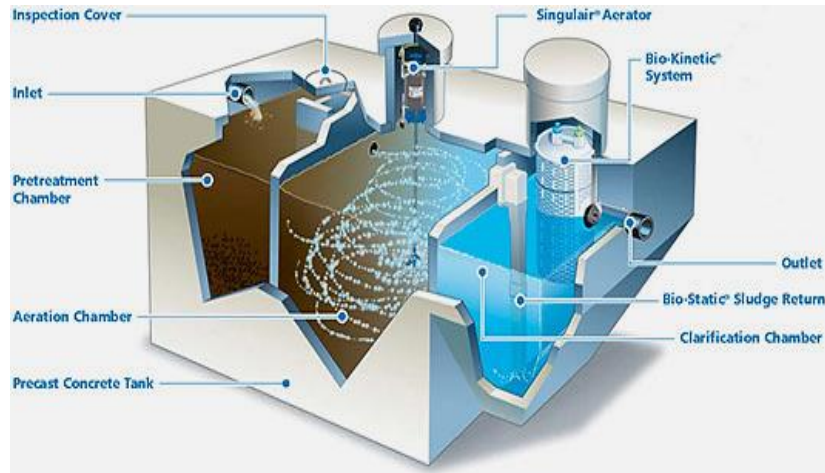


Permit to Operate

Level 2: NON-NPDES Off-lot Discharging System



Permit to Operate Level 3: NPDES Off-lot Discharging System



Question: How do I find a septic servicing contractor or pumper?

- <https://www.mahoninghealth.org/septic>

Resources:

MCPH Forms & Information:

- Septic & Well Fee Schedule
- Site Plan
- As-Built Form
- Affidavit
- Exemption for Structure on Vacant Property
- Sewage System Installer Drawing Form
- List of Registered Household Sewage Treatment Installers
- List of Registered Household Sewage Treatment System Service Providers
- List of Registered Septage Haulers (Pumpers)
- Real Estate Waiver Form
- Septic Tank Maintenance
- Frequently Asked Questions about Septage
- Listing of Ohio Soil Scientists
- Listing of Ohio Soil Evaluators

Training and CEU Information for Wastewater Registrants

- Installer Training – ODH

Our Challenges

- Staffing for O&M program
- Unknown/Unclassified Systems
- Addressing Failing Systems
- Continuous education/growth of the program



We Are Here To Answer Your Questions....

- This Powerpoint will be available on our website.
- FAQ is being developed
 - Will be available on our Website
 - Will be included in the letter that is mailed out to each system owner
- Phone calls/Emails



QUESTIONS

