



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

STREET ADDRESS:

Lazarus Government Center
122 S. Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

TELE: (614) 644-3020 FAX: (614) 644-3184
www.epa.state.oh.us

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

December 21, 2006

Dear Interested Party/Stakeholder:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has recently issued the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Selected New and Replacement Household Sewage Treatment Systems (NPDES Permit No. OHK000001). The general permit will become effective on January 1, 2007 and will be available to work in support of the new Ohio Department of Health (ODH) household sewage treatment rules (OAC 3701-29) which become effective on the same date. Ohio EPA and ODH, as well as several general health districts, have been working closely to accomplish the goal of issuing this permit and updating the rules and we are confident that both will work together to improve this aspect of the household sewage treatment system program in the state.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Response to Comments to address comments and questions raised during the series of public hearings held on the general permit and those received during the comment period. All of the issues raised were considered in finalizing the permit and several revisions were made to the draft permit to accommodate many of the recommendations.

Also, it should be noted that this HSTS General Permit was drafted and issued in conjunction with the revised ODH rules in order to provide an effective and efficient means to provide permit coverage to discharging HSTS's as required by federal and state laws and regulations. Additionally, the revised ODH rules do not allow a general health district to approve the installation of a discharging HSTS without first insuring that NPDES requirements are met. Receiving coverage under this HSTS General Permit can be obtained in a matter of days instead of months that would be required in following the standard permit issuance process. However, in order to provide this timely service, general health districts must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ohio EPA and ODH to oversee and implement their portion of the program. Ohio EPA recommends that all general health districts enter into such an agreement since there will undoubtedly be situations within their jurisdictions where it will be necessary to approve a discharging HSTS.

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

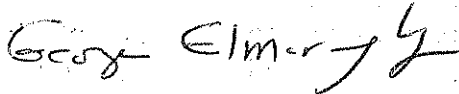
In order to begin the MOU process, general health districts should submit a request in writing to the Ohio EPA at the following address:

Mr. Mark Stump, Environmental Specialist  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Surface Water  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Upon receipt of this letter, Ohio EPA will begin the process of generating and formalizing MOUs for the necessary signatures.

If you have any questions concerning the permit or related issues, please feel free to contact Mark Stump of this office at (614)644-2028. Also, a copy of the general MOU, the final HSTS General Permit, the Response to Comments and any other related information can be viewed at the following website:  
<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/gpfact.html>.

Sincerely,



George Elmaraghy, Chief  
Ohio EPA-Division of Surface Water

Attachment