

GLOSSARY

Abandoned Septic Tank

~~The term “Abandoned Septic Tank” means~~ A septic tank whose use has been permanently discontinued.

Abandoned Water Supply Systems

A permanently abandoned water supply system means a well ~~whose~~ that:

- a. ~~use~~ has been permanently **taken out of service** ~~discontinued~~; or
- b. ~~which~~ has not been used for a period of three years or more; or
- c. ~~a well that~~ is in such disrepair that its continued use for the purpose of obtaining groundwater is impractical; or
- d. ~~a well which~~ has been left uncompleted; or
- e. ~~a well which~~ is a threat to groundwater resources; or
- f. ~~a well which~~ is or may **become** be a health or safety hazard.

Absorption Field, Trench, or Bed

A means of distributing septic tank effluent or outflow below the ground surface by means of a series of lines or drain tile laid on a bed of aggregate with openings so as to allow the effluent or outflow to be absorbed by the surrounding soil and thence dispersed by evaporation, transpiration, or percolation.

Accessory Structure

Any building, shelter, structure intended solely for non-human habitation such as a pole barn, utility garage, storage facility, or other similar structure.

Aggregate

An inert material (stone, chipped/shredded tires, or polystyrene) ranging in size from ½” to 2” intended for use in a sewage treatment final disposal bed or trench.

Alternative On-site Sewage Treatment System

~~An alternative on-site sewage system shall mean~~ Any proven method of on-site sewage treatment other than the conventional treatment tank with absorption trenches, bed, or seepage pit, providing for protection of the environment through uniform distribution of the effluent to the final disposal system, enhanced treatment to the final disposal system or combinations thereof. Alternative systems include but are not limited to aeration treatment systems,

pressurized mounds, and sand filters.

Approved

~~"Approved" shall mean~~ Acceptable for intended use as judged by the Health Officer by utilizing public health rules, regulations and technical data.

Approved

~~Shall mean acceptable for intended use to the Health Officer as judged by public rules and regulations.~~

Approved Water Supply

~~An "approved water supply" is one which conforms to the applicable requirements of Act 368 of Public Act 1978 Part 127 and Act 399 of Public Act 1976 (MCL 325.1001-325.1023), and to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to said Acts including the provisions of these Regulations.~~

Available Public Sewer System

~~An "Available Public Sewer System" shall mean~~ A public sewer system located in a right-of-way easement, highway, street, or public way that passes not more than two hundred (200) feet at the nearest point from a structure ~~of~~ **in** which sewage originates.

Board of Health

~~The term "Board of Health" shall mean~~ The Board appointed by the Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm County Boards of Commissioners respectively.

Clandestine Drug Lab

~~Shall mean~~ An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that either has been or could be used in the manufacture or synthesis of controlled substances.

Closed Loop Geothermal System

Closed Loop Geothermal System include vertical, angled, diagonal or horizontal looped piping systems that are constructed ~~greater than 15 feet below the earth's surface~~ for the purpose of utilizing the geothermal properties of ~~transferring heat between a building space and the earth~~

for heating and/or cooling purposes and that utilize circulation of ~~utilizing~~ a nontoxic antifreeze solution ~~circulated~~ rather than ground water as the heat transfer medium.

Conventional On-site Sewage Treatment System

~~A conventional on-site sewage treatment system shall mean~~ Any proven method of on-site sewage treatment other than an alternative on-site sewage treatment system that consists of a watertight septic tank with non-uniform distribution of sewage effluent to a final disposal area (drainfield or drainbed).

Cross-Connection

A cross-connection is any system of piping or other arrangement whereby a public or private water supply system is connected directly with a sewer, drain, conduit, swimming pool, well, submerged inlet, siphon, storage reservoir, ~~abandoned water supply system~~ (or an active or abandoned privately-owned well at a premise served by a public water supply), any non-potable water supply system, or any similar circumstance or device which contains or may contain sewage, ~~or other~~ wastes or any liquid capable of causing contamination of the ~~to an~~ approved public or private water supply.

Distribution Box

~~A distribution box is~~ A receptacle, installed with proper footings and provided with outlets on the same horizontal plane, used for the purpose of assuring the equal distribution of the septic tank effluent, when such effluent is being disposed of by means of an absorption field, trench or bed.

Diversion Valve

A mechanism provided to enable a switching of the effluent flow from one soil absorption system to another separate absorption system so as to permit alternate periods of loading and resting for each system.

Dosing/Pump Chamber

A dosing or pump chamber is a water-tight tank or receptacle used for the purpose of retaining the overflow of effluent from the septic tank, pending its automatic discharge to a selected point.

Dry Well

~~A Dry Well is an underground enclosure connected to the outlet of a septic tank, constructed of concrete block, dry well block, pre-cast concrete, brick or similar material laid~~

~~with open joints so as to allow the septic tank outflow of effluent to be absorbed directly into the surrounding soil.~~

Dwelling

~~Shall mean~~ Any house, building structure, tent, shelter, trailer, or vehicle or portion thereof, which is occupied, or intended for occupancy, in whole or in part as the home, residence, living or sleeping place of one or more human beings, either permanently or transiently.

Dwelling Unit

~~Shall mean~~ A room or group of adjoining rooms in a building occupied or intended for occupancy as living quarters by but one family and provided with living, sleeping and sanitary facilities.

Effluent Filter

A filtering device (used in conjunction with or to replace the effluent baffle as part of the septic tank) designed to remove suspended and/or excessive solids from the sewage effluent.

Effluent Pump

An electrically powered mechanical device specifically designed to move or propel sewage effluent from a pump chamber to a final disposal field.

Family

~~Shall mean~~ A person, or group of persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, occupying a single dwelling unit.

Garbage

Rejected food wastes including waste accumulation of animal, fruit, and vegetable matter used or intended for food or that attend the preparation, use, cooking, dealing in or storing of meat, fish, fowl, fruit, or vegetable.

Grinder Pump

An electrically powered mechanical device specifically designed to grind or break apart raw sewage and to move or propel resulting wastes to a septic tank.

Habitable Building

~~The term "habitable building" shall mean~~ Any structure or part thereof where persons live, or sleep, or reside, or are employed, or congregate and which is occupied in whole or in part.

Health Department

~~The term "Health Department" shall mean The Mid-Michigan District Health Department.~~

Health Officer

~~The term "Health Officer" shall mean The Director of the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and/or their authorized representatives.~~

High Capacity Well

~~Shall mean One or more water wells associated with an industrial or processing facility, an irrigation facility, a farm, or a public water supply system that, in the aggregate from all sources and by all methods, have the capability of withdrawing 100,000 or more gallons of groundwater in one day as detailed within Part 327 of the Natural Resources and Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994 as amended.~~

High Groundwater Elevation

~~High Groundwater Elevation means The elevation of the groundwater during the normally wet periods of the year, as interpreted by the physical presence of water and/or as interpreted by the presence of mottling in the soil.~~

Holding Tank

A watertight receptacle equipped with an alarm device and approved risers, which receives and holds sewage prior to pumping.

Innovative On-site Sewage Treatment

~~Innovative On-site Sewage Treatment means A developed method of on-site sewage treatment that has not been fully proven in field tests or under the circumstances of its intended use.~~

Isolation of Water Supplies

~~A Water Supply or Well Groundwater wells and connection pipes shall be isolated from sewage disposal systems and other sources of contamination as required by this chapter and the above cited Acts and Rules.~~

Manual of Septic Tank Practices

United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Publication No. (HSM) 72-10020, formerly known as "PHS Publication No. 526", revised in 1967, is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal

By authority of Act 368, P.A. 1978, as amended, and Act 245, P.A. 1929, D48, Rev. 4/94, Michigan Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, P.O. Box 30195, Lansing, MI 48909.

Mottling

The presence of mottling in the soil indicates poor aeration and impeded drainage. Mottling in a soil profile is determined by the presence of irregular spots of different colors in the excavation or boring. Mottling occurs with the seasonal saturation of the soil for a period of two or more weeks during the year. As a result, anaerobic activity during the period of saturation triggers a reduction process changing the color of minerals in the soil.

Nuisance

~~The term "nuisance" shall mean~~ Unlawful performance of an act or omitting to perform a duty that, by act or omission, injures, or endangers the health, safety, or welfare of others.

Open Loop Geothermal System

Open Loop Geothermal System is a geothermal heat exchanger that withdraws groundwater from a supply well, passes the groundwater through a heat exchanger pump, and discharges the temperature altered water either back to the ground in a discharge (return) well or to the ground surface or into surface water

Owners

~~The term "owners" and "persons owning premises" shall mean~~ Both the owner of title and record and/or those occupying or in possession of any property or premise.

Percolation Test (Soil Absorption Capacity Test)

A method of estimating the capacity of an existing soil to receive, disperse, and absorb (percolate) the anticipated quantities of effluent (outflow) from a septic tank or other treatment device.

Person

~~The term "person" shall mean~~ Any individual, firm, partnership, party, corporation, company, society, association or other legal entity.

Person

~~———— Shall mean and include any individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership.~~

Premise

~~The term "premise" shall mean~~ A tract or parcel of land on which a habitable building is located and shall include the building.

Private Sewage Disposal System

A Private Sewage Disposal System is a sewage disposal system, other than a public system ~~which is under the jurisdiction of Act 98, P.A. 1913, as amended,~~ which receives either human excreta, liquid wastes or both from one premise. Included within the scope of its definition are septic tank-soil absorption systems, privies, chemical toilets, and such other types as may be approved by the Health Officer.

Privies or Outhouses

~~The term "Privies or Outhouses" means~~ A building or other structure not connected with a sewer system or with a properly installed and operated sewage disposal system, and which is used for the reception, disposition, or storage, either temporarily or permanently, of feces or other excreta from the human body.

Public Water Supply

~~"Public Water Supply" means~~ A water supply which provides water for drinking or household purposes to persons other than the supplier of water, except those water supplies which supply water to only one (1) living unit.

Residential Dwelling

~~Any house, mobile home, building or other permanent structure that is occupied or intended for occupancy, in whole or in part as the home, residence, living or sleeping place of one or more persons.~~

Riser

Pre-cast or custom built (to industry standards) water-tight vertical extension located over the clean out port(s) on a septic tank.

Rubbish

Processed, inorganic solid wastes, excluding ashes, consisting of both combustible and non-combustible wastes, such as paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, or litter of any kind that will be a detriment to the public health and safety. For the purpose of these regulations, rubbish shall also mean plastics, appliances, furniture, vehicles, construction and demolition debris, and tires.

Safe and Adequate Water Supply

“Safe and Adequate Water Supply” means A water supply system which is in compliance with Part 127 of Act 368 P.A. of 1978 as amended or ~~and Act 399 P.A. of 1976 as amended as well as~~ and is constructed and located in such a manner as to provide water which will not endanger the public’s health and which provides sufficient water volume for the intended purpose. ~~pressure to operate connected plumbing fixtures.~~

Scope

~~— This chapter relating to water systems will apply to all premises, residential and commercial lots within the Mid-Michigan District Health Department’s jurisdiction.~~

Septage

Septage is highly variable anaerobic slurry of liquids and solids removed from a septic tank.

Septic Tank

~~A Septic Tank is~~ A water-tight receptacle used for the purpose of receiving all domestic and organic sewage and so designed to permit the separation of solids in suspension from such wastes and to permit such retained solids to undergo decomposition therein, permitting the effluent or overflow to be disposed of in a manner consistent with the Department’s Environmental Health Regulations.

Sewage

~~Sewage is~~ A combination of the domestic liquid or semi-solid wastes from a dwelling or habitable building. This includes human excreta, garbage disposal wastes, dishwater, bath water,

laundry wastes, basement drains, etc; but excludes roof storm water, water softener backwash discharge, footing drains and storm water discharge.

Sewage Effluent

Sewage, water, or other liquid partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing from a septic tank.

Sewage Failure

A Sewage Failure shall include but not be limited to any condition where effluent from any sewage absorption system is exposed to the surface of the ground or is permitted to drain on or to the surface of the ground, into any ditch, storm sewer, lake or stream, or when the odor, appearance, or presence of this material may have an obnoxious or detrimental effect on or to the senses and/or health of persons. A sewage absorption system is considered to have failed if any one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The system does not accept effluent at the rate of application; or
- b. Sewage effluent seeps from, or ponds on or around the absorption system, or contaminates the surface and/or groundwaters; or,
- c. When the back-up of sewage effluent in a basement, indoor plumbing, or crawl space occurs.

Sewer

~~A Sewer is~~ A watertight conduit for carrying sewage.

Soils Evaluation

A textural analysis of the soil to determine the estimated percolation rate.

Sump Pump

A mechanical device specifically designed to move or propel clear water from a sump pit. Not intended for pumping any type of sewage.

Unapproved Connection

~~An “unapproved connection” is~~ Any physical connection or plumbing arrangement whereby an unapproved water system is connected with any other public, semi-public or private water supply system.

Variance

~~Shall mean for the purpose of these Regulations~~ An agreement to authorize an act contrary to the usual rule, regulation, law or policy; and shall include a satisfactory determination of all of the listed items a. through d. of Chapter One, Section 2.4 herein.

Vermin

~~Shall mean~~ An insect or animal that is destructive or harmful to the public health including but not limited to cockroaches, bed bugs, rats, and mice.

Water Supply System

~~“Water Supply” means~~ A system of pipes and structures through which water is obtained, including but not limited to, the source of the water such as wells, surface water intakes, or hauled water storage tanks; and pumping and treatment equipment, storage tanks, pipes and appurtenances, or a combination thereof, used or intended to furnish water for domestic, non-potable, or commercial use.

Well

~~“Well” means~~ An opening in the surface of the earth for the purpose of obtaining groundwater, monitoring the quality or quantity of groundwater, obtaining geological information on aquifers, recharging aquifers, purging aquifers, utilizing the geothermal properties of earth formations, or removing groundwater for any purpose. Wells, as defined in this section, include:

- a. A water supply well used to obtain water for drinking or domestic purposes.
- b. An irrigation well used to provide water for plants, livestock, or other agricultural processes.
- c. A test well used to obtain information on groundwater quantity, quality, or aquifer characteristics, for the purpose of designing or operating a water supply well.
- d. A recharge well used to discharge water into an aquifer.
- e. A de-watering well used to lower the groundwater level temporarily at a construction site.
- f. A heat exchange well used for the purpose of utilizing the geothermal properties of earth formations for heating and/or air conditioning.
- g. An industrial well used to supply water for industrial processes, fire protection, or similar non-potable uses.
- h. A freshwater well at an oil or gas well drilling site, when the freshwater well is to be retained after completion of the oil or gas drilling operation.
- i. ~~A test well for monitoring quality of the groundwater.~~