

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# DEQ SEPTAGE PROGRAM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# WHO ARE WE

- CAN YOU INTRODUCE EACH OF THE MDEQ SEPTAGE PROGRAM STAFF AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

# WHO ARE WE

- GO TO [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DEQSEPTAGE](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DEQSEPTAGE)

WATER

Great Lakes

Drinking Water

Lakes & Streams

Wetlands

MiWaters

Permits

Wastewater

Onsite Wastewater

Surface Water

Wastewater  
Construction

Water Management

DEQ / WATER / WASTEWATER / SURFACE WATER

## Septage

### Septage Program

The licensing and handling of domestic Septage is regulated under 2004 Public Act 381, which amended Part 117, Septage Waste Servicers, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The DEQ's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance administers the Septage program with the assistance of participating county health departments.

### Information

- [Enforcement Actions](#)
- [EPA Certification Statement](#)
- [Recommended Chemical Soil Test Procedures for the North Central Region](#)
- [Septage Good Practices Photo Gallery](#)
- [Septage Violations Photo Gallery](#)
- [Subsurface Injection](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

### Laws & Rules

- [Part 117 amendment](#)
- [Part 117 - Septage Waste Servicers, and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 503](#)

### Online Services

- [Septage Storage Facilities](#)
- [Septage Hauler Directory and Septage Receiving Facility Directory](#)

### Program Forms/Downloads

- [SWRF Disposal Authorization](#)
- [Vehicle Information](#)
- [Renewal Septage Hauler License Application](#)
- [Land Application Information](#)
- [Septage Program FAQs](#)

### Related Links

- [Domestic Septage Regulatory Guidance for EPA Rule 503](#)
- [Michigan Motor Carrier Safety Act](#)
- [Waste Data System](#)
- [Federal Guide on Septage Disposal](#)

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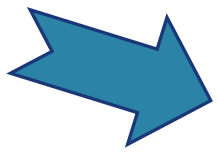
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## Contact Information

Environmental Health Section

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Septage Waste Program

Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division

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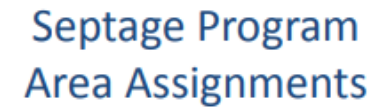
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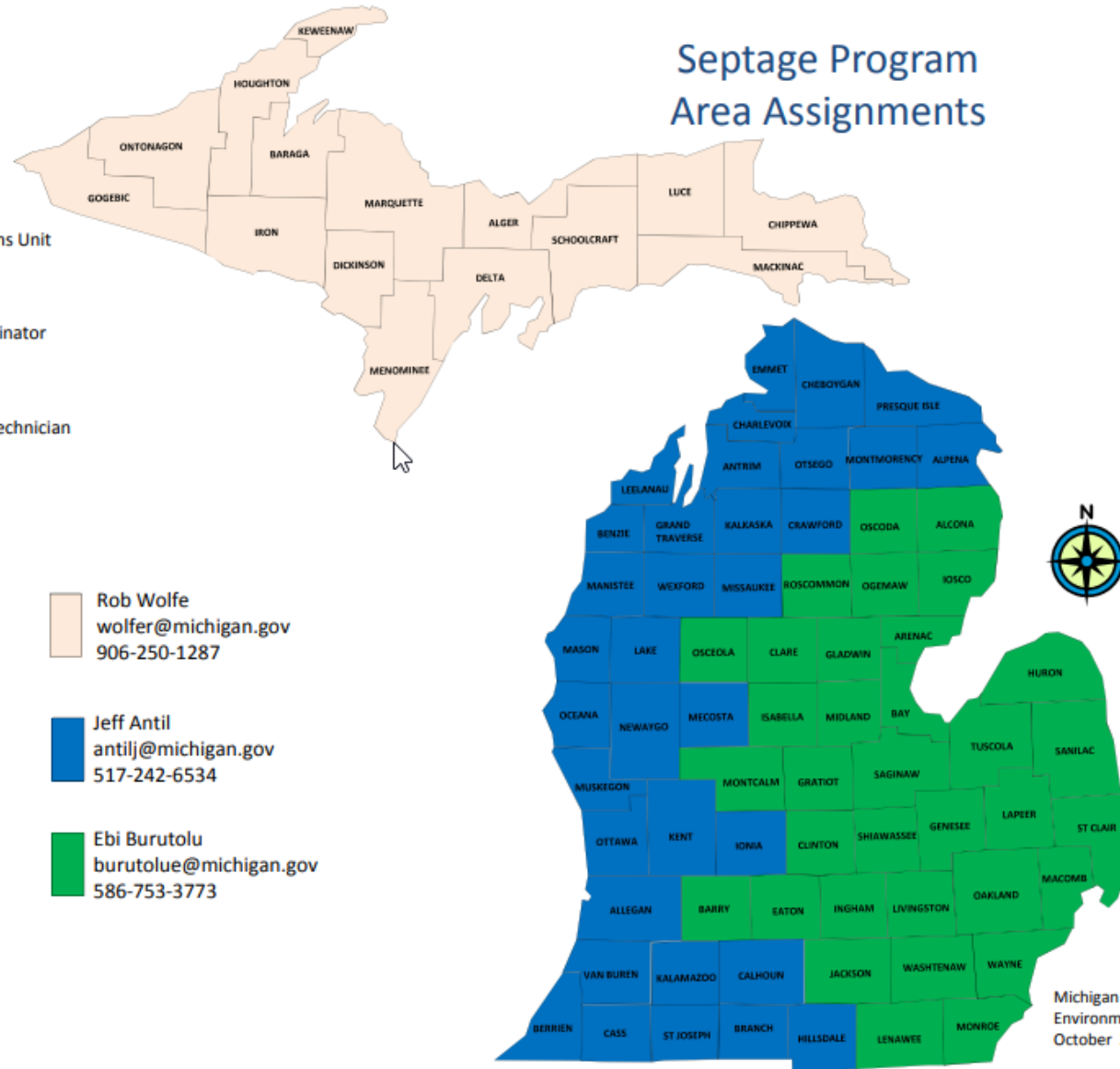
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Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality  
October 2017

## Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division

# STATEWIDE CODE

- SHOULD AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN TANK SIZES IN THE AREA PLAY A ROLE IN WHICH SIZE IS USED FOR A PERMIT, SUCH AS A 1000 GALLON TOP-SEALING TANK VERSUS A 1200 TOP-SEALING TANK?

# STATEWIDE CODE

- *FOLLOW THE LOCAL CODE*
- *IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND SOME FLEXIBILITY (TALK TO LHD STAFF)*

# STATEWIDE CODE

- CONSIDERING STATEWIDE CODE EFFORTS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY GOING TO CONTINUE, HOW DO THE REQUIREMENTS AROUND SEPTIC TANK CONSTRUCTION VARY AROUND THE STATE AND HOW MIGHT THOSE DIFFERENCES BE RECONCILED IN A STATE CODE? I.E. RISERS REQUIRED ON ALL TANKS/ACCESS PORTS, INLET AND OUTLET BOOTS, WATERTIGHT TESTING, POLY OR FIBERGLASS TANKS, CAPACITIES?

# STATEWIDE CODE

- *AN EVENTUAL STATEWIDE CODE WOULD  
LIKELY SET MINIMUM STANDARDS THAT LOCAL  
CODES COULD BUILD UPON*

# FARM PORTABLES EXEMPTION

- IS THE DEQ WATCHING THE FARM OPERATIONS NOW THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SERVICE, MOVE PORTABLE RESTROOMS AND SEPTAGE WITHOUT BEING LICENSE THROUGH THE STATE?

# FARM PORTABLES EXEMPTION

- *NO (SHORT ANSWER)*
- *IT'S COMPLICATED (THE LONG ANSWER)*

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- A SEPTAGE HAULER BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO HOLD ALL CONTINUING SEPTAGE EDUCATION HOURS FOR HIS BUSINESS, PASSES AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY. HE LEAVES A 10-EMPLOYEE BUSINESS WITHOUT A REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS ATTAINED CSE HOURS. THE BUSINESS IS TOLD THAT IT MUST SHUT DOWN IMMEDIATELY UNTIL THE MINIMUM REQUIRED CSE HOURS ARE EARNED BY A NEW REPRESENTATIVE. HOWEVER, THE NEXT AVAILABLE SERIES OF APPROVED EDUCATIONAL COURSES IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. WOULD THE DEQ BE WILLING TO WORK WITH A BUSINESS IN THIS SITUATION AND ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE OPERATING, EVEN WITH RESTRICTIONS OR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, TO PRESERVE THE JOBS OF THE TEN PEOPLE WHO, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, MAY NOW BE FACING UNEMPLOYMENT?

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- *THE CSE CREDITS BELONG TO THE BUSINESS,  
NOT THE RESPONSIBLE AGENT*
- *THE BUSINESS WILL NEED AN RA WITH 30  
CREDITS AT TIME OF RENEWAL*

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- HAVE THE FREQUENCY OR SEVERITY OF VIOLATIONS FALLEN SINCE THE CSE ERA HAS GONE INTO EFFECT?

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- YES

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- I ACCIDENTALLY APPLIED MY NEW HAULER LICENSE OVER TOP OF THE OLD LICENSE AND A CENTIMETER STRIP OF THE OLD LICENSE IS VISIBLE. SHOULD I REQUEST A NEW STICKER?



# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- *YOU MUST NOW BURN YOUR TRUCK DOWN!*



# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- I HAVE RECEIVED A EXTENSION ON MY SEPTAGE WASTE PROGRAM LICENSE. DO THE CSE'S I HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR MY 2020 DEADLINE NOW GO TO MY NEW DATE?

# CSE & LICENSE QUESTIONS

- *YES, DESPITE POPULAR OPINION, WE ARE NOT JERKS*

# PENALTIES

- WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR LYING TO THE DEQ ABOUT THE GALLONS YOUR TRUCK CAN HAUL?

# PENALTIES

- *LYING TO THE DEQ ABOUT ANYTHING IS A FELONY*

# PENALTIES

- WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR A DISPOSAL FACILITY FOR ALLOWING A HAULER TO BRING IN A 4500 GALLON TRUCK AND DISPOSE AT A 3500 GALLON RATE?

# PENALTIES

- *IF THEY ARE LYING TO SKIRT NPDES PERMIT LIMITS, THEN FELONY AND LOSS OF CERTIFICATION*
- *IF IT'S ACTUALLY 3,500 GALLONS IN A 4,500 TRUCK, THEN NO HARM, NO FOWL*

# PENALTIES

- WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR A DISPOSAL FACILITY EMPLOYEE THAT KNOWS THAT THE DEQ GALLONS ARE NOT CORRECT, BUT DOES NOT REPORT IT TO THE DEQ?

# PENALTIES

- *IF CERTIFIED OPERATOR, THEN LOSS OF CERTIFICATION, FELONY, LOSS OF JOB, FINES*
- *IF NOT CERTIFIED OPERATOR, LOSS OF JOB, FINES*

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- IF YOU DON'T FEEL THAT THE LHD IS DOING THEIR JOB CONCERNING THE SEPTAGE PROGRAM, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- *YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE LHD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR OR HEALTH OFFICER*
- *DEQ CAN CONSULT WITH LHD*

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEES

- EVEN THOUGH DEQ CHARGES FEES, SOME LHDS CHARGE ADDITIONAL FEES FOR TRUCK OR LAND APPLICATION SITE INSPECTIONS. CAN YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THIS?

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEES

- *LHDS ARE WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS TO CHARGE  
ADDITIONAL FEES FOR INSPECTIONS*

# DEQ FEES

- IS IT POSSIBLE TO LOWER THE FEES?

# DEQ FEES

- *PART 117 IS A LAW*
- *THE FEES ARE SPECIFIED IN LAW*
- *ONLY THE LEGISLATURE CAN CHANGE THE FEES*

# VOLUME RECORDS

- DOES A LICENSED SEPTAGE HAULER NEED TO CARRY VOLUME RECORDS OTHER THAN WHAT HE IS CURRENTLY TRANSPORTING?

# VOLUME RECORDS

- *NO. YOU ONLY NEED RECORDS FOR THE CURRENT LOAD IN THE TRUCK*
- *THE COMPLETE VOLUME RECORDS MUST BE RETAINED AT YOUR BUSINESS FOR 5 YEARS*

# RECEIVING FACILITIES

- I'M BASED IN OAKLAND COUNTY IS THERE ANY OTHER PLACE AVAILABLE FOR ME TO DISPOSE OF MY WASTE? I CURRENTLY DUMP AT THE OAKLAND COUNTY DUMP BUT THE WASTE GOES TO THE CITY OF DETROIT.

# RECEIVING FACILITIES

- *YOU CAN TAKE SEPTAGE TO ANY RECEIVING FACILITY THAT WILL ACCEPT IT.*
- *A LIST OF SEPTAGE WASTE RECEIVING FACILITIES IS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE*
- *[WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DEQSEPTAGE](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DEQSEPTAGE)*

# CROPPING PLANS

- WHEN IS THE EARLIEST DATE THAT CROPPING PLANS MAY BE SUBMITTED? WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR CROPPING PLANS TO BE SUBMITTED?

# CROPPING PLANS

- *WE ASK FOR THE CROPPING PLANS EVERY NOVEMBER*
- *THEY ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY*

# UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

- DO COMPANIES THAT INSTALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES INCLUDING LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEM HAVE TO LOCATE THE SEPTIC TANK AS NOT TO RUN THEIR LINES ACROSS

# UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

- *NO, MISS DIG DOESN'T COVER SEPTIC SYSTEMS*
- *LHDS HAVE RECORDS OF SYSTEM LOCATION AND RESERVE AREA*




# PUMP PLACEMENT

- IS IT BETTER TO HAVE A PUMP BEFORE OR AFTER THE TANK?





# PUMP PLACEMENT

- *IT DEPENDS*
  - *EFFLUENT PUMP?*
  - *GRINDER PUMP?*
  - *VACUUM PUMP?*
- 

# DOUBLE TANKS

- WHEN IS IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO USE TWO TANKS OVER ONE? DO TWO TANKS DO A BETTER JOB AT DISTRIBUTING WASTE?

# DOUBLE TANKS

- *IT ALL DEPENDS ON LOCAL CODE*
- *INTENDED TO PROVIDE MORE RETENTION TIME  
AND INCREASE SETTLING*

# TESTING WATER TIGHTNESS

- WATERTIGHT SEPTIC TANKS BEING CRITICAL TO THE LONG TERM PERFORMANCE OF THE WASTEWATER SYSTEM, WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS OF OBJECTIVELY ASSESSING THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND "WATERTIGHTNESS" OF A PRE-EXISTING AND IN-USE SEPTIC TANK, ASIDE FROM VACUUM TESTING WHICH IS NOT PRACTICABLE IN MOST SITUATIONS FOR AN EXISTING IN-USE TANK? I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE MSTA COME OUT WITH A RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE.

# TESTING WATER TIGHTNESS

- *CHECK WITH LHD OR LOCAL CODE FOR PROCEDURE*

# MISCELLANEOUS

- WHY DO WE YEAR AFTER YEAR HEAR THE SAME OLD STUFF? THIS SHOULD NOT BE MANDATORY BUT VOLUNTARY! I PAID \$165.00 TO ATTEND SOMETHING I DISLIKE VERY MUCH!!

# MISCELLANEOUS

- *THIS IS NOT MANDATORY*
- *YOU CAN GET YOUR 30 CSE CREDITS WHEREVER APPROVED CSE CREDITS ARE OFFERED*
- *PUTTING ON THIS CONFERENCE TAKES A TON OF EFFORT*

# PFAS

- WE ALL KNOW ABOUT PFAS CONTAMINATION IN OUR STATE'S GROUNDWATER, AND NOW WE ARE HEARING OF MUNICIPALITIES TESTING THEIR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS AND FINDING EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS IN SOME CASES. WHAT ABOUT BIOSOLIDS THAT HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FROM THOSE SAME MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS? DO WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL HARMFUL EFFECTS ON SITES THAT HAVE HAD MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF BIOSOLIDS OVER MULTIPLE YEARS, SOMETIMES DECADES?