



## GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH

Promoting and Protecting Community Health

12611 Ravenwood Dr. #300, Chardon, OH 44024-1071

440.279.1900

www.gphohio.org

### Homeowner Acknowledgment Form: NPDES Discharging HSTS

A discharging Household Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) will be or has been installed on your property. This system is sometimes referred to as an Advanced Treatment Unit (ATU), which is a small residential biological treatment system used to treat wastewater to a higher degree than a traditional septic system. The system does not use any type of soil absorption component and the treated effluent is disinfected and aerated prior to being discharged to the environment. This type of system requires a specialized permit issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). As the property owner, you will be issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit by the Ohio EPA. There are specific guidelines and requirements for an NPDES system that are not required by a traditional HSTS. Because of this, Geauga Public Health has established an acknowledgement form which defines the specifics of this type of HSTS.

The owner of the property must read, initial each requirement, sign, and agree to the following requirements for the Operation and Maintenance of their HSTS. Failure to initial each section and sign this agreement does not excuse homeowner(s) from meeting the applicable requirements and regulations as specified in **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29 Sewage Treatment System Rules**, the NPDES permit, and any supplemental rules required by Geauga Public Health.

Initials	Regulations, requirements for an NPDES system
	1. I understand that all HSTS residing in Geauga County require a signed Operations and Maintenance Permit, and that I am responsible for the maintenance of my HSTS at the frequency specified in this permit.
	2. I understand that if I do not demonstrate that I have completed the requirements of my O&M permit, or return the renewal notice and fee at the end of a permit cycle the Geauga Public Health (GPH) will inspect my HSTS and I will be responsible for any associated inspection fee.
	3. I understand that a HSTS system with an NPDES permit is required to have an annual service contract with an authorized service provider for the lifetime of the HSTS, defined in OAC 3710-29. Geauga Public Health requires the owner of said HSTS follow all manufacturer's requirements for daily operation.
	4. I agree to follow all requirements defined in the NPDES permit issued for the HSTS on my property for as long as my NPDES permit is active. To maintain compliance, I must meet the following: a. Maintain an annual service contract with an authorized service provider for the life of the HSTS. b. Submit a copy of the service contract or have the service provider submit a copy of the service contract to GPH annually. c. Have routine preventative maintenance visits by an authorized service provider semi-annually. d. Coordinate annual or repeat sampling of the HSTS for carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, and <i>E. coli</i> and submit the sample results to GPH. e. Take corrective measure when sample results are not in compliance with the limits listed in the NPDES permit. f. Routine pumping of the trash trap and aeration system as needed.
	5. Upon property transfer, information for required Operation and Maintenance, service contract, NPDES permit, and all other applicable information pertaining to my HSTS must be disclosed to subsequent homeowners.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the property owner of \_\_\_\_\_ address located in Geauga County, am aware that I have a HSTS which requires and NPDES permit. I have been informed and understand that this type of HSTS has additional requirements mandated by the Ohio EPA. I have discussed these requirements with the designer, installer, previous property owner and/or Geauga Public Health and I agree to maintain my system as defined by my NPDES permit and rules outlined in OAC3710-29. I have read, understand and agree to items 1 through 5 of this form.

Property Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Homeowner Acknowledgment Form: NPDES**

The Ohio EPA issued the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) to provide a process for replacement household sewage systems that discharge treated sewage effluent (non-soil based systems) to gain compliance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Pollution Control Act. The complete terms and limitations of this General Permit can be found on the Final General Permit page of Ohio EPA's website.

New or replacement discharging systems must meet certain effluent water quality standards defined in the General Permit. Owners of these systems must obtain on-going service and maintenance for the life of the system, and conduct annual water quality sampling to demonstrate compliance with the permit standards. The Ohio Department of Health, with the recommendation of the Sewage Treatment Systems Technical Advisory Committee, reviews and approves sewage treatment systems and components that treat household wastewater to meet the requirements of the General Permit.

### **Responsibilities and Requirements for System Owners and Local Health Districts**

The General Permit define the responsibilities of ownership and maintenance of a NPDES system.

- 1) Diagnostic Effluent Sampling – The General Permit requires annual diagnostic testing of the effluent. System owners are responsible for ensuring that a sample is collected and reported to the local health district.
- 2) Samples must be collected and tested annually for:
  - a) Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
  - b) Ammonia (summer or winter limits--depending on the time of year sample is taken)
  - c) Five Day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD)
  - d) Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
  - e) E. coli
- 3) Annual diagnostic effluent sample test results must be reported to the local health district which is required to review the results and ensure the system is being properly operated and maintained. Some local health districts may collect these samples as part of the operation permit issued to the system owner. The service provider for a system may offer sample collection as a separate service or as part of the service contract and report the data to the local health district. System owners should contact the local health district to determine the local sampling and reporting process.
- 4) Service Contract for the Discharging System - The owner of a discharging household sewage treatment system that receives coverage under the General Permit is required to maintain a service contract for the life of the system. ODH approval for these systems and the General Permit's conditions require that a service contract be maintained to ensure that the system operates properly and does not discharge untreated or insufficiently treated sewage effluent. Local health districts are responsible to ensure that system owners maintain a service contract for their system. Local health districts must also enroll the system into a local operation and maintenance tracking program. A service provider report may be provided in lieu of an inspection conducted by the local health district. Operation and maintenance data for each approved discharging system are listed by manufacturer on the Approved Pretreatment Components page on the ODH website.

*ODH Responsibilities of a Household NPDES System/revised 5/2018*

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/residential-sewage-treatment-systems/resources-and-education/npdes-updated-hsts>