



**SAMPLING REQUEST FORM**  
**FOR HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENTS SYSTEMS WITH AN NPDES PERMIT**  
**Sampling \$75.00 plus Lab Fees**  
 TSS \$20.00  Ammonia \$25.00  E. coli \$30.00  D.O. \$5.00 Make Checks  
 Payable to **GEGAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH**

<b>GPH Use Only</b>
Lab Fee: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____
Sampling fee <input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00
Receipt#
Date:

Property Location			
Name:		Address:	
City:	State: OH	Zip:	Phone:
Email:			
Property Information			
Number of Bedrooms:		Number of Occupants:	Last Service Visit:
Is the system currently under a service contract? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Start Date:                      End Date:
Name of Service Provider:			
Manufacturer: <input type="checkbox"/> Jet <input type="checkbox"/> Norweco <input type="checkbox"/> MultiFlow <input type="checkbox"/> AquaSafe <input type="checkbox"/> Hydro Action <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			

Samples are collected Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. A Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) will contact you to discuss the sampling requirements and schedule an appointment. You are not required to be home for the sampling however it is requested that all animals be secured on the day of sampling. During the site visit the REHS will be available to answer any questions and review the operation and maintenance of your system with you.

All samples will be collected following the guidelines outlined in **Ohio EPA. (2012) Manual of OEPA Surveillance Methods and Quality Assurance Practices**. Sample results will be compared to the required NPDES permit limits and action levels as required by the NPDES permit. Any parameter(s) with a result greater than action level 2 will require a service visit by a registered service provider and re-sampling by Geauga Public Health. A re-sampling visit will be subject to a \$75.00 sampling fee and any additional laboratory fees.

NPDES Permit and Action Level Limits

Result Name	Permit Limit	Action Level 1	Action Level 2
CBOD5 mg/L	< 15	>15 and < 40	≥ 40
TSS mg/L	< 18	>18 and < 45	≥ 45
<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100ml	< 410	>410 and < 1030	≥ 1030
<sup>1</sup> Ammonia mg/L	< 2.0	>2.0 and < 12	≥ 12
<sup>2</sup> Ammonia mg/L	< 4.5	>4.5 and < 12	≥ 12
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	> 6.0	< 6.0 and > 3.0	≤ 3.0

<sup>1</sup>Summer Limits <sup>2</sup>Winter limits

The person signing this document will be considered the responsible party for ensuring that all components are uncovered and easily identifiable at the time of inspection. A re-inspection fee will be charged if the system is not ready for the inspection. When a system is found not operating effectively, corrective measures must be taken and re-sampling will be required for all parameters that are over the action level 2 limit. Re-sampling and the associated fees are required to ensure that the system has been serviced and is operating effectively.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Requester's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## General NPDES Information

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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), Ammonia, E. coli, and Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) 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.
- 3) 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.

### Action Levels and Compliance

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**Action Level One** – Letter to homeowner acknowledging concern and requesting verification that service provided as per mandated service contracts. If no verification of service can be provided then service provider must be contacted for routine operation and maintenance as per service contract.

**Action Level Two** – Letter to homeowner acknowledging concern and fact that system is not “operating as designed and intended” and corrective action is necessary. Homeowner must contact service provider to provide service to system. Once service provided then homeowner must submit verification to LHD and LHD may require a re-sample of parameters resulting in Action Level Two review. The homeowner, service provider and local health district should work together to assess the system and try to determine other reasons for poor system performance including a more detailed assessment of potential or excessive system inputs, or substances (i.e. medications, cleaners) that may disrupt the system's performance. If parameters continue to be exceeded, then go to Action Level 3.

**Action Level Three** - If public health nuisance parameters (e.g. total suspended solids, fecal coliform or *E. coli*) or ammonia-N routinely exceed Action Level Two thresholds, then an investigation by the local health district is recommended, and may include, but is not limited to, short term repeated system monitoring for parameters of concern (i.e. 5 samples over 2 weeks with a calculation of arithmetic and/or geometric mean as appropriate), and/or installation of tertiary treatment as necessary to abate the nuisance.

*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>