

**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

PROGRAM GUIDELINE

PROGRAM:	Sewage Disposal – Private		
SUBJECT:	Guidelines Concerning the Acceptance and Operation of "Pump and Haul" Sewage Disposal Facilities		
AUTHORITY:	Section 610.1, Sewage Disposal Regulations for Kent County, Michigan		
GUIDELINE NO:	4	EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 11, 1984

PURPOSE:

Disposal of sanitary sewage on sites where it is generated is sometimes a practical impossibility, due to limitations posed by impermeable soils, elevated water tables, or other factors. When sites affected by such limitations cannot be provided with public sewer service, the only available sewage disposal option becomes the storage of sewage on-site, followed by the periodic collection, transport, and disposal of stored sewage at a suitable off-site location. This method of sewage disposal, generally described as "Pump-and-Haul" (P & H), is of marginal adequacy due to the number and severity of problems which it presents. Typical problems associated with P & H include:

- Excessive operational expenses to the P & H facility owner
- 2 Inconvenience to the P & H facility owner associated with periodic servicing needs
- 3 Restrictions on water use affecting users of premises served by P & H
- 4 Restrictions on marketability of premises served by P & H
- 5 Potential health hazards resulting from improper disposal of stored sewage

Because of such inherent problems associated with P & H, it is regarded as a method of last resort, to be authorized only under specific conditions when other, more acceptable sewage disposal options are not available or practical. The purpose of this guideline is to define the conditions under which P & H facilities may be approved by the Kent County Health Department, and to specify certain requirements regarding the design, operation and maintenance of such facilities. Since different considerations apply to different categories of premises, the requirements concerning a P & H vary according to property type, as noted in the sections which follow.

PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES: (continued)

C. One and two-family residential premises

- 1 Authorization shall **not** be granted for the installation of P & H facilities to serve proposed or newly-constructed premises, except when municipal sanitary sewers or approved sewage disposal facilities intended to serve such premises are under actual construction.
2. Authorization **may** be granted for installation and use of P & H facilities at existing premises if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a Provision is made for installation of a prominent warning device, such as a bell, buzzer or light, to signal the occupant of the property when servicing of the sewage holding facility is required. The warning device shall be installed in such a manner as to provide at least twenty-four hours of advance warning before the sewage holding facility is full to capacity.
 - b A contract between the owner of the P & H facility and a licensed septic tank cleaner shall be executed. Such contract shall address the frequency of servicing to be provided by the septic tank cleaner, and other pertinent details. Such contract, or a subsequent contract with a different septic tank cleaner, shall be maintained in continuous effect for the entire period of time the P & H facility is to remain in use. A copy of the current document shall be filed with the Kent County Health Department.
 - c A written agreement, signed by the owner of the property served by the P & H facility, shall be filed with the Kent County Health Department. This agreement shall be of standard form and shall outline all responsibilities, obligations and liabilities which apply to the owner of the served property.
 - d Access to the sanitary sewage holding device shall be restricted by means of a locking hatch, valve or other similar device. Persons having authorized access to the facility shall include:
 - 1 The Kent County Health Department
 - 2 The local governing entity within whose jurisdiction the facility is located
 - 3 The person contracted by the facility owner to remove and dispose of sanitary sewage

The owner of the property served by the P & H facility shall **not** be provided with a direct means of access to the sewage holding facility.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE
FOR
PUMP AND HAUL FACILITIES

**SANITARY SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES UTILIZING ON-SITE STORAGE, HAULING AND
FINAL DISPOSAL AT AN OFF-SITE RECEIVING FACILITY**

INTRODUCTION

This technical guidance has been developed for use by agencies responsible for the review and approval of sanitary sewage disposal facilities utilizing on-site storage, hauling, and final disposal at an off-site receiving facility.

II. DETERMINATION OF SEWAGE QUANTITIES

The determination of sewage quantities shall be based on measurement of actual flows. When this information is not available or obtainable, the information and tables found in **Appendix "C," Estimates of Sewage Quantities** of the *Michigan Guidelines for Subsurface Sewage Disposal* should be utilized as a guide in estimating quantities of sewage flow.

III. APPLICATION

A. Applications for Permits

The permit application shall be made to the certified health department or if the area is not served by a certified health department, the application shall be made to the Water Resources Commission.

B Information Required for Review of Application

The information needed for review of a specific application will vary in accordance with the type of building development, the estimated flow rate, and other conditions. The application must include at least the following:

- 1 The design of the on-site storage facility, the site development plan, and a written description of how the storing, transporting and disposing of the waste will be accomplished. The site development plan shall indicate the zoning classification, if any, of the parcel, structures which will discharge to the holding tank, and projected occupancy or other bases used for determining sewage quantities.
- 2 Designation of an off-site receiving facility. In the event the off-site receiving facility is not an approved municipal sewage disposal facility, the applicant shall submit a design of that facility to be utilized.
- 3 A contingency plan to be followed should a breakdown occur.
- 4 Contracts or agreements necessary to assure the continuity of a satisfactory operation.

- 4 The location shall be such as to allow ready access during the periods deemed necessary to assure continuity of operation. Also the location must be such as to prevent the creation of a public health hazard or nuisance.
5. When required by the reviewing agency, there shall be wash-down facilities, curbing and fencing.

V. FACTORS FOR EVALUATING THE TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE

- A. Vehicles must be approved under Act 243, Public Acts of 1951, as amended
- B. A prime vehicle and a backup vehicle must be available to haul as required to meet the pumping schedule.
- C It is recommended that the applicant own the vehicle where large flows of sewage are involved.
- D The vehicle must be of sufficient size and suitable design to handle the expected daily flows while meeting the operation schedule and hydraulic limitations of the final disposal facility.
- E The suitability of roads, climatic conditions and load restrictions, including the transportation route(s) from the storage facility to the disposal facility, shall be reviewed by the reviewing agency.

VI. CONTRACTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- A The applicant shall inform and seek the approval and written endorsement of the local units of government where the pump-and-haul is intended. Endorsement may include overseeing the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the holding tank, assuming the responsibility for operating and maintaining the tank should the owner not fulfill the terms of the original agreement and/or other agreed upon control mechanisms with the reviewing agency.
- B An appropriate deed restriction is needed to inform prospective future owners of the facility about the provisions, conditions and restrictions concerning the pump-and-haul arrangements.
- C The applicant shall designate a person to be in responsible charge of the total pump-and-haul operation. The name, address, and phone number of this person shall be provided to the reviewing agency.