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Operation and Maintenance Frequently Asked Questions

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What is Operation and Maintenance (O&M)?

- The program is required by Ohio law (see below)
- Homeowners will be required to properly maintain household sewage systems so that they may operate properly to increase the life of the systems and decrease the risk of causing a public health nuisance.
- This program is **NOT** related to 6119

Why is the O&M Program being implemented?

- Each county is tasked with the responsibility of issuing operational permits for all sewage treatment systems in the county
- State law requires operation permits and regular maintenance of household sewage treatment systems. More information about the laws can be found at the Putnam County Health Department website at www.putnamhealth.com. The laws related to the O&M program are:
 - OAC 3701-29-19: Operation and Maintenance
 - ORC 3718.02 (A)(5): Operation Permits
 - ORC 3718.02 (A)(3)(c): Maintenance
 - ORC 3718.02 (A)(7): Board of Health required to develop program

What is the proposed plan to establish the O&M Program?

- The proposed plan is a 10-year plan to incorporate all existing systems into the O&M Program
- Each year of the 10-year plan, approximately 10% of homeowners will be required to complete a permit application for operation of their system. This will continue until all systems are integrated into the program.
- The permit is good for 5 years and will need to be renewed every 5 years.
- There is a formula to determine the order in which homeowners will be required to obtain a permit.
- The proposed formula is a rating system based on age of the system, property location related to the watershed and type of system.

What do I have to do to comply with the regulations?

- When you are notified that you must obtain an operation permit. The permit application must be completed and returned to the health department, along with the required fee.
- Follow the Terms and Conditions of Operation Permit:
 - Septic tank must be pumped at least every 10 years by a contractor registered by the Putnam County Health Department.
 - Service contracts must be maintained if applicable and reported to the health department.
 - Evaluation of the household sewage treatment system will be required one time within the 5-year permit cycle.
 - The health department will perform a visual evaluation of the system OR the homeowner may have a registered contractor complete the evaluation.
 - If the system is an NPDES system, requirements of maintaining and testing must be met and reported to the health department.

What is the cost?

- Currently, the cost is for a 5-year Operation Permit is \$75.

Will I have to put in a new system?

- A new system is NOT required unless it is causing a public health nuisance and it cannot be repaired or remediated.

For more information contact:

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