

NPDES Process – DPHD

For select new, replacement, and/or updated Household Sewage Treatment
Systems

(SFOSTS do NOT qualify for NPDES)

Step 1: Verify Sewer Accessibility

The applicant must confirm that the property line is not within 400 feet of a public sewer line. Properties within 400 feet of, and with access to, a public sewer line are not eligible for NPDES. Written documentation must be obtained from the closest sewer entity verifying whether public sewer is accessible.

Step 2: Soil Evaluation

A soil scientist must evaluate the property and determine that no soil absorption system is feasible, including conventional and alternative systems. All options must be exhausted and documented in writing.

If a discharging system is being considered at this stage, all applicable discharge permissions and local approvals (townships, right-of-way permits etc) should be explored at this stage.

Step 3: Submit Site & Plan Application

Submit the DPHD Site and Plan Application with the following fees:

- Design Review: \$250
- Site Review: \$250
- Total: \$500**

The following items must be included with the application:

- Written documentation from the soil scientist stating that no soil-based system can be installed (completed during step 2)
- Written documentation from the closest sewer entity verifying sewer accessibility (completed during step 1)
- Written confirmation from the designer (if applicable) concurring with findings and stating that no repair, replacement, or system upgrade on lot options are feasible (if applicable).
- Written statement from soil scientist or designer stating the site is unsuitable for gravity, LPP, engineered drainage, mound, and drip systems
- Completed and signed NPDES Homeowner Acknowledgement form (located on the DPHD website and required to be completed by the homeowner)
- Dates of site visits by the designer and/or soil scientist

- Discharge point marked/flagged onsite (coordinates encouraged but optional)
- Discharge point clearly labeled on plans (ditch/stream name included)
- Written discharge permissions (City of Columbus, township, right-of-way permits, etc), if applicable. Discharge to the Olentangy River is not permitted at this time.
- Homeowner name, mailing address, and email address
- Identification of project type (new or replacement)
- Abandonment permit information for replacement systems
- Written refusal if Special Device systems are declined
- Written statement if homeowner owns adjacent property and declines its use.
- Failsafe shut-off system with audible and visual alarm, including one of the following:
 - o Integrated pump lockout
 - o Remote telemetry device
 (*Must be clearly shown on plans.*)

Step 4: DPHD Review & Site Evaluation

DPHD will review the submitted site and plan materials for compliance with NPDES requirements. An onsite evaluation will be completed to confirm application details.

Once approved, the site review will be valid for (5) years from the date of issuance. DPHD will then submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Ohio EPA.

Step 5: EPA Application & Homeowner Action

Ohio EPA will contact the homeowner directly with a link to complete and sign the NOI.

Only the homeowner may complete this step.

EPA fee: \$200 (paid online)

All correspondence at this stage is between the homeowner and EPA.

Step 6: Notice of Coverage Issuance

Once DPHD and the homeowner have completed all requirements, EPA will review the NOI. EPA review time is approximately 2-3 weeks.

After approval, EPA finalizes the NOI and issues a Notice of Coverage (NOC) to DPHD and the homeowner. Homeowners should provide a copy to DPHD.

Step 7: Permit to Install

After receiving the NOC, the homeowner/agent may apply for a Permit to Install with DPHD to begin the NPDES installation.

Required Items for Permitting:

- Copy of EPA Notice of Coverage
- State Permit to Install form
- Applicable permit fee (New system: \$899 Replacement System: \$749)

Fees include installation inspections and a re-trip inspection. Site changes or damage may cause delays.

Installation Permits are valid for 1 year from the issued date.

Step 8 (If Applicable): Replacement Systems

Replacement systems must submit a completed abandonment report and pump report prior to final approval.

Ongoing Compliance Requirements

After completion of all required steps, the homeowner must comply with the following:

- Annual effluent sampling
- Annual service provider inspections
- Annual DPHD operating permit renewal
- EPA Notice of Coverage renewal every 5 years

Homeowners must maintain an operation and maintenance schedule for the life of the system. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action or revocation of coverage.

Additional Information

A new system serves a residence built on a lot existing prior to 01/01/2007.

An updated system is an existing discharging system (installed prior to 01/01/2007) modified to obtain NPDES coverage.

Small Flow Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems do not discharge to Waters of the State and do not require NPDES permits.

For further details, visit:

Ohio Department of Health- <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/sewage-treatment-systems/information-for-homeowners/npdes>

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency- <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/permitting/npdes-general-permits>