

Appendix G – Septic System Management Plan [to be submitted separately]

Since the 2008 adoption of Water Quality Management Planning rules, Wastewater Management Planning agencies are tasked to establish a Septic Management Plan for areas served by septic systems. For protection of the ground water, regular pumping of septic systems is an important part of ongoing maintenance. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website has a guidance document titled “Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems.” In this document is a Management Model for governmental agencies to promote “Homeowner Awareness”. The New Jersey DEP has also provided guidance for septic management on their website.

Based upon guidance and discussions with DEP staff, Municipal Ordinances are not being required at this time for strict enforcement of periodic pump-outs of septic systems by homeowners. Instead, DEP would like to see a septic system inventory established, and description of current and future activities to support septic management. There will be continued public education and outreach by County and Municipal governments to educate homeowners and small commercial uses about septic system maintenance.

The existing State septic rules (N.J.A.C. 7:9A) already establish a municipal role to notify homeowners about proper operation and maintenance practices for septic systems, and require records to be kept for existing septic systems.

The Septic System Management Plan for Sussex County will be developed and submitted separately from the County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). Similar to the County WMP, it is a 10-year plan and its implementation will proceed in phases, involving cooperative efforts of County and Municipal officials and staff.

Two municipalities in Sussex County have chosen to adopt ordinances that enforce septic maintenance for specific lake communities, and they are listed on the following page.

Municipal ordinances regarding this topic are included in this appendix. The status of such ordinances is as follows:

Table G-1. Ordinances for Septic System Maintenance		
Municipality	Ordinance Name/Number	Adoption Date
Byram Township	Septic Management Program, Ordinance BH1-2005 Ordinance BH1-2011	4-26-2005 5-24-2011
Sparta Township	Sewage Disposal System in the Lake Mohawk Septic Management District	1998