

CHAPTER 15

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

ARTICLE I

ON LOT SEWAGE DISPOSAL

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 8, February 4, 1961, as amended by Ordinance No. 8A, March 2, 1968, Ordinance No. 8B, June 7, 1975, Ordinance No. 2007-06-07, June 13, 2007, Ordinance No. 2013-08-07, August 14, 2013 and Ordinance No. 2017-05-03.

§15-101. Purpose

To establish procedures for the regulation of On Lot Sewage Disposal as set forth on Chapters 71, 72 and 73 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code (Environmental).

§15-102. Definitions

- A. **INSTALLER:** Any person, approved by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, which engages in the business of installing on lot sewage systems.
- B. **PERSON:** Any individual, partnership, association, company, firm, trust, corporation, department, bureau, agency or other entity recognized by law as subject to right and duties.
- C. **SEWAGE:** Includes gray water and black water. Gray water is all wastewater generated from household activities, except that produced from the toilet and kitchen sink. Wastewater from the kitchen sink and toilet is black water. Both black water and gray water must be discharged into an on-lot sewage system.
- D. **SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** The person or persons licensed by the State and appointed by the Board of Supervisors to inspect and approve the installation of permitted on-lot sewage systems.
- E. **SYSTEM:** Any on-lot state-approved sewage system designed and permitted for the sole purpose of renovation and disposal underground of all gray and black water produced by a single residence, mobile home, building, or occupied parcel of land not connected to public sewage.

§15-103. Permits

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to install or cause to be installed an on-lot sewage system on any piece or parcel of ground under his/her ownership, care or control unless said person has previously applied for an on-lot sewage system permit, completed state-approved soil tests, and received a permit to install an approved system from the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.
- B. It shall be unlawful to construct an on-lot sewage system where a public sewer line is within one hundred and fifty feet (150') of the residence, mobile home, building, plant

or occupied piece of land and the area sewer authority approves connection to the sewer line.

§15-104. Installers

Installation of on-lot sewage systems may be by:

- A. Installers who assume responsibility for the proper installation of the system design approved and permitted by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer; or
- B. Any person who complies with the regulations of this Chapter.

§15-105. Applications

All persons wishing to install or have installed an on-lot sewage system must acquire a permit from the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer and a building permit from the Township office. A building permit shall not be issued unless the applicant submits an on-lot sewage permit when apply for the building permit. A fee shall be paid as may be established, from time to time, by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

§15-106. New Construction

- A. New construction must be on a minimum one-half (1/2) acre lot to use a septic tank system unless other minimums are established by the Township's Zoning regulations. On existing lots of record where the area is less than one-half (1/2) acre, location and installation of the system shall be such that it will function in a sanitary manner and will not create a health nuisance or endanger the safety of any domestic water supply.
- B. All septic tanks hereafter to be constructed shall comply with the following requirements and specifications:
 1. Three (3) bedrooms or less, a tank of nine hundred (900) gallon capacity shall be required. The tanks shall be set on solid ground.
 2. For all other uses, the capacity of the tanks shall be increased pro-rata for the proper disposal of sewage, waste matter, used water or other similar matter, and the capacity of the tank shall be determined and fixed by the political subdivision, to-wit, Center Township Supervisors, as necessary for proper disposal. The subsurface disposal field or absorption ditch shall contain a minimum area of four hundred and seventy-six (476) square feet. Under no circumstances shall rain water from roofing drains, french drains and garage drains be connected into the system and/or septic tanks subsurface disposal field. Septic tanks shall not be permitted closer than ten feet (10') from any house.
- C. Inspection:
 1. All absorption ditches and septic tanks shall be left open until passed upon and approved by the Board of Supervisors or its authorized representative.
 2. The inspection shall commence within seventy-two (72) hours after notification.
- D. Location of the disposal field shall be such as to provide not less than the stated

distances from the following:

1. Property lines - ten feet (10')
 2. Any water supply – one hundred feet (100')
 3. Dwellings - ten feet (10')
 4. Streams - fifty feet (50')
- E. Distribution box shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the necessary field. Lateral lines shall be constructed at the head of each disposal field.
1. Each field lateral line shall be connected separately to the distribution box and shall be subdivided.
 2. The invert of all outlets shall be level and the inlet invert shall be at least one inch (1") above the outlets.
 3. The outlet inverts shall be from four to six inches (4"-6") above the floor, permitting water retention to act in lieu of a baffle for the purpose of securing equal distribution.
- F. Each inspection must be certified to the Township in writing on forms provided by the Township to the Township Secretary by the inspector.

§15-107. Portable Chemical Toilets Required for New Construction

No residential or nonresidential building construction shall be started without the developer, builder or owner providing an on-site portable chemical toilet facility for use by the builder's employees, contractors, subcontractors and their employees. The portable chemical toilet facility shall be maintained at all times in a sanitary and good working order. The portable chemical toilet facility shall remain on-site until construction is either completed or until indoor plumbing facilities are constructed and made available to the builder's employees, contractors, subcontractors and their employees. Failure to provide a portable chemical toilet shall result in revocation of the building permit and subject the builder to the penalties set forth in §15-209 below. In addition, failure to maintain the portable chemical toilet in a sanitary and good working order shall result in revocation of the building permit and subject the builder to the penalties set forth in §15-110 below.

§15-108. Existing Systems

- A. Repair or replacement of malfunctioning or inadequate sewage systems shall require permits the same as new installations, but the specifications, if found not practical, shall be individually determined by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.
- B. When an existing tract of land served by an existing on lot sewage system is subdivided, the sewage system including all component parts thereof, must be entirely located within the boundary of the property which is served by the existing system. The developer must pay for an inspection and verification of same by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, at a fee established from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

§15-109. Complaints

- A. Complaints of malfunctioning or inadequate sewage systems must be in writing to the Township Secretary who shall forward the complaint to the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer for investigation.
- B. Upon investigation, the Sewage Enforcement Officer may at his discretion complete a dye test on both the complaint's on-lot sewage system and the on-lot sewage system of the person named in the complaint.
- C. In the event that an existing septic system does not function in a sanitary manner so as to create a public health problem, upon any filed complaint, in writing, it shall be the duty of the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer to provide written notice to the offending person to make the necessary changes within thirty (30) days, in order to make said septic system conform to the requirements and specifications of this Article. Upon failure so to comply within the said thirty (30) day period, such persons shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this Article.

§15-110. Violations and Penalties

Any person violating the provisions of this Article shall be liable upon conviction thereof before a District Justice and be fined a sum of no less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for each and every offense, or in default of the payment of the fine and costs, such person willfully in default, shall be committed to the Butler County Prison for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Each and every day that any violation of the provisions hereof exists or continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and shall be subject to separate and distinct penalties hereunder.