

KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
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Adam London, RS, MPA
Administrative Health Officer

September 12, 2019

Frank Force
Grattan Township
12050 Old Belding Rd NE
Belding, MI 48809

RE: Septic System Abandonment for the Cowan Lake Sewer Project

Dear Mr. Force:

The proposed Cowan Lake Sewer Project will require individual owners to abandon use of their septic systems upon connection to the public sewer. Abandoned septic system may pose a health and safety risk if dealt with improperly. Unmaintained septic tanks or other subsurface structures associated with the abandoned septic tank may fail; creating sinkholes and damage to nearby structures. This correspondence will answer questions your residents may have about the minimum requirements for proper abandonment of septic systems.

The Kent County Sewage Disposal Regulations, Section 306 requires tanks and other below grade structures like dry wells, seepage pits, leaching chambers, block trenches, and dosing chambers to be permanently abandoned upon connection to public sewer. To properly abandon tanks, the following actions must be taken:

1. The structure must be pumped dry by a licensed septage waste hauler, bottoms broken, completely filled with free-flowing soil or other inert material, and crushed in place to prevent settling. If they are removed from the ground, the structure must no longer contain free liquid and properly disposed in a landfill licensed by the State of Michigan.
2. A pump certification card from the licensed septage waste hauler must be submitted to this Department along with photographic evidence/documentation that the structures were properly crushed and filled.

This Department will not require the removal of the soil dispersal system (i.e. drain beds and drain fields) upon connection to public sewer. The dispersal system may be left in place to naturally attenuate into the onsite soils. If the resident wishes to remove the dispersal system and surrounding soils, the excavator would need to ensure that the soil, aggregate, and pipe do not contain any free liquid. Once removed from the ground, the materials would need to be disposed at a landfill licensed by the State of Michigan. Materials cannot be deposited on other locations on the property as we cannot guarantee proper isolation to groundwater and/or water wells. Residents who refuse to properly abandon their below grade structures can be reported to our office and may be subject to enforcement activities. Residents are encouraged to contact this Department if they have any questions about their specific abandonment plans. If you have any questions or would like copies of property records, please call me at 616-204-2375 or email Jason.buck@kentcountymi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Buck".

Jason E. Buck, REHS
Sanitarian Specialist