Introduction: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) under the authority of Rule 420 (R560.420) of the Administrative Rules for the Land Division Act (LDA) requires that a competent person (i.e. a knowledgeable consultant in private enterprise) submit an evaluation report that addresses all aspects of the Rules pertaining to on-site suitability for sewage disposal, including the soil profile, isolation, etc. Additionally, District Health Department #2 requires that the consultant’s report also include the suitability of on-site water supplies with respect to conformity with the applicable Administrative Rules.

The role of the health department is one of reviewing the submitted information to determine conformance with the Rules. A written report detailing the findings of that review will be provided by the health department. The health department will also make a site visit to confirm the findings of the consultant. It is recommended that the consultant contact the health department to discuss the project early in its development and to arrange a time to meet at the site to conduct the on-site visit together prior to submission of the report. Normally, a backhoe is necessary to conduct the soil evaluation (to be provided by the developer).

While certain sites may require extensive evaluating and testing, the consultant should expect to submit at least the following:

1. Completed health department application form, with the appropriate fee, for the proposed development.
2. A completed SITE REPORT form for subdivisions and site condominiums, but not for single land divisions.
3. Preliminary plat drawing. (Rule 402) Site plan to scale showing: area for an on-site sewage system (tank and drainfield), replacement area for drainfield, location for soil borings, water well location, house/outbuildings, driveways, road(s), surface water and associated flood plain (if applicable), adjacent lot development, contours for existing and proposed 5-foot intervals, drainage ways or pipes, easements, etc.
4. Legal description of the property and intended use of the property.
5. Well record(s) for proposed aquifer from test well(s) or nearby wells.
6. Well yield results (Rule 411).
   a. Four (4) hour pump test demonstrating draw down and gallons per minute (gpm)
   b. Low producing wells (less than 10 gpm) must provide a storage facility plan
7. Water sample results (Rule 412, 413)
   a. Coliform bacteria
   b. Partial chemistry (nitrite, nitrate, fluoride, chloride, sodium, sulfate, iron, and hardness as CaCO3).
   c. Arsenic – preferably two (2) sample: one after flushing and clearing the well (e.g. after 12,000 gallons of purging); and one after a rest time (e.g. one or two days rest and then purging for 200-300 gallons)

8. Indicate type of well protection (Rule 408)
   a. Impervious layer (e.g. clay or bedrock) of at least ten (10) feet in thickness
   b. Vertical depth of well with sufficient water column
   c. Increased horizontal isolation
   d. Combination of above

9. Adequate isolation distances for sewage disposal system(s) including the replacement area (Rule 417), site plan or accompanying report must provide assurance that minimum isolation distance are met including:
   a. Well isolation
   b. Surface water
   c. Foundation walls
   d. Footing drains
   e. Property lines

10. Soil Profile (Rule 420)
    a. Soil textures to six (6) feet
    b. Water table information, including data on seasonal high water table

11. Other necessary information may include:
    a. Fill soil plan
    b. Deep cut plan for sewage disposal system
    c. Proposal to lower groundwater elevation
    d. Alternative sewage disposal system plan
    e. Deed advisory for secondary contaminants in drinking water, e.g., hardness, iron (Rule 415, 426)
    f. Additional contours (Rules 402(a) and 418)

Please note: this check list is advisory in nature and is not intended to be a substitute for the consultant or developer thoroughly understanding the requirements of the Administrative Rules pertaining to the Land Division Act. A copy of these Rules will be provided upon request.

This document was prepared by District Health Department #2. If you have any questions, please contact the District Health Department #2 office in your county.

Rev. 12-06-05
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