House Bill Changes How Ohio Regulates Small Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems

The small flow on-site sewage treatment system (SFOSTS) is a new category of sewage treatment system established in 2005 by Chapter 3718 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Under this law, small flow on-site sewage treatment systems are permitted either by local health departments or Ohio EPA.

Where a local health department has assumed SFOSTS authority, they are responsible for regulating and issuing permits for these systems. Where the local health department has not assumed SFOSTS authority, Ohio EPA issues permits. For more information, including a list of local health departments that have SFOSTS authority, see the Ohio Department of Health’s Web site at www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/sfosts1.aspx.

A SFOSTS is defined as an on-site system (other than a household system) that treats no more than 1,000 gallons per day of sewage only. Small flow manufacturing facilities, dentist offices, beauty salons, veterinary offices, funeral homes, etc., may be able to install a SFOSTS approved by the local health department only if any industrial or process wastewater is segregated from sanitary wastes entering the system. You must discuss options and permit requirements for managing any non-sewage portion of your wastewater (such as medical waste, industrial waste or chemical-laden wastewater) with Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water.

A small flow system that will have a discharge that requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit does not meet the definition of SFOSTS and remains under Ohio EPA authority. Any system that proposes to expand beyond 1,000 gallons per day treatment capacity will remain or return to Ohio EPA authority.

For more information on on-site sewage treatment systems, including SFOSTS requirements, visit the Division of Surface Water’s Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/OnsiteSystems.html.

New Requirements for Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaners

On July 27, 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) significantly revised the requirements for all dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene (or perc). These amendments to the original 1993 NESHAP standards require a phase-out of perc use at dry cleaners located in residential buildings, a phase-out of all transfer machines and monthly leak checks on all dry cleaning machines.
Below is a brief summary of the new requirements for major sources (using greater than 2,100 gallons of perc annually) and area sources (using less than 2,100 gallons of perc annually).

**Major Sources** (new and existing) must:

- Each month, check all perc machines for leaks using a PCE gas analyzer (photoionization detector, flame ionization detector, or infrared analyzer) to perform leak checks according to EPA Method 21.
- Use dry-to-dry machines that do not vent to the atmosphere (closed-loop) during any phase of the dry cleaning cycle.
- Ensure all new machines are equipped with a refrigerated condenser and a secondary carbon adsorber.
- Continue to comply with all requirements of the 1993 dry cleaning NESHAP standards.

**Area Sources**

- Each month, check all perc machines for leaks using a halogenated hydrocarbon detector or PCE gas analyzer.
- Use dry-to-dry machines that do not vent to the atmosphere (closed-loop) during any phase of the dry cleaning cycle.
- Ensure all new machines are equipped with a refrigerated condenser and a secondary carbon adsorber.
- Continue to comply with all requirements of the 1993 Dry Cleaning NESHAP standards.

In addition, all dry cleaning facilities must cease using transfer machines by July 28, 2008.

Any dry cleaner located within a residential building has additional requirements, which include not installing any new perc machines and eliminating all perc usage by December 2020.

You can view the rule on-line at [www.epa.gov/tnn/atw/dryperc/dryclpg.html](http://www.epa.gov/tnn/atw/dryperc/dryclpg.html).

For additional help please feel free to contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at (800) 329-7518.

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**Cleveland Company Wins Research Contract for Converting Biomass into Fuels**

U.S. EPA recently announced $2.52 million in contracts to 36 small businesses to develop new technologies that will protect human health and the environment. The awards were given to businesses in 22 states under U.S. EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. SBIR was established to ensure that new technologies are developed to solve priority environmental problems.

Technology Management Inc., of Cleveland, received one of these contracts. The company received $70,000 to develop a new method for converting biomass such as plant and animal wastes into liquid fuels. Technology Management has identified a method for converting such biomass into alternative liquid fuels suitable for use in internal combustion engines. The core concept involves processing the organic material into a gaseous carbon-rich stream using an anaerobic digester, refining the gas stream composition using a solid-oxide electrochemical reactant processor and passing the modified stream into a catalyst reactor to produce liquid fuels.

An SBIR small business is defined as a for-profit organization with no more than 500 employees. U.S. EPA solicits research proposals for SBIR grants each year. For more information, go to [www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir).

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**Licking County Education Center Goes Green**

Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County (C-TEC) recently finished a major addition and renovation project with many green building attributes. C-TEC hopes to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified Silver rating. The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.
C-TEC’s LEED project checklist:

**Sustainable Site**
- Storm Water Management
  - treatment
  - rate and quantity
- Landscape to reduce heat islands
- Lighting pollution reduction – photometric plan
- Alternate transportation - bicycle racks
- Reduced site disturbance – soil maintained
- Recycled asphalt
- Tree plantings and shrubs

**Water Efficiency**
- Water use reduction
  - Waterless urinals, low-flow toilets and shower heads
  - 30 percent factor
- Water efficient landscaping and irrigation
  - 50 percent factor
  - Bio-swells

**Energy and Atmosphere**
- Commissioning
  - Private external consultant
- Ozone Depletion
  - Low VOC & white reflective roof
- Measurement and Verification
  - Monitoring heating
  - Evening heating
  - Utilize non-peak demand
- Optimize Energy Performance
  - Motors on 460 volt – high efficiency
  - Lighting at 277 volt – high efficiency

**Materials and Resources**
- Construction Waste Diversion
  - 90 percent factor
- Local Regional Materials
  - 500 mile radius
  - 60 percent of products
- Certified Wood
  - Re-plantings
- Recycled Content
  - Wall block
  - Recycled milk carton drainage tiles
  - Wheat boards
- Storage and Collectibles of Recyclables

**Indoor Environmental Quality**
- Carbon Dioxide Monitoring
- Low Emitting Materials
  - Paint
  - Adhesives & sealants
  - Carpet
  - Composite wood
- Daylight and Views

- Indoor Chemical & Pollutant Controls
- Construction Indoor Quality Management Plan
- Protect and Clean Ducts
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control
- Thermal Comfort Monitoring System

**Innovation and Design Process**
- Blended Cement
  - 40 percent displacement of portland
- Water Efficiency
  - Exemplary performance at plus 40 percent
- Materials and Resources
  - Exemplary performance at plus 40 percent
- Education with Student Curriculum
  - Environmental awareness
- LEED Accredited Professional

For more information about this project, contact Rick Orr at (740) 364-2832 or rorr@c-tec.edu, and visit C-TEC’s Web site at www.c-tec.edu/facilities.asp.

**Save This Date! Columbus Green Expo Coming in September**

The Columbus Green Expo will take place on September 13, 2007. Be sure to attend or participate in one of the biggest sustainability events in Ohio. See the latest in green technology, products and services, and hear presentations from leading national experts in the field. Look for more details soon. For more information, visit www.cgbf.org/.

**Waste to Profit Collaboration Opportunities in Ohio**

On April 12th, an exploratory meeting was held at The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in Marysville to explore the business benefits of waste to profit (W2P) and/or by-product synergy (BPS) networks, and how they might be established in Ohio and neighboring states. The meeting was organized by the OSU Center for Resilience. Participants included: American Electric Power, Alcoa, Anheuser-Busch, Battelle Memorial Institute, Dow Chemical, Honda of America Manufacturing, Cardinal Health, Marathon Petroleum, Owens Corning, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, Ohio and U.S. EPA. Also participating was the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development, a pioneer in the practice of BPS.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the U.S. EPA has defined BPS as ‘the synergy among diverse industries, agriculture and communities.
resulting in profitable conversion of by-products and wastes to resources promoting sustainability.'

BPS is the principle that underpins the concept of “industrial ecology” - a holistic view of industry in which organizations exchange energy and material between one another, rather than operating as isolated units. Industrial ecology promotes a shift away from traditional open linear systems towards closed loops and inter-dependent relationships of the kind found in nature. For more information, please visit the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development at www.usbcasd.org/ or the Partnership for Industrial Ecology in Central Ohio (PIECO) at http://swaco.org/PIECO.aspx.

Need Help?
Ohio EPA’s Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a non-regulatory program and one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

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