



## **GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Promoting and Protecting Community Health*

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November 1, 2021

Dear Homeowner,

As you are aware, the Berkshire Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and sewer construction project in Chardon Township will be wrapping up. The Geauga County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) will begin operating and maintaining the WWTP in early 2022. GCDWR has outlined in a letter dated October 8, 2021 that once they begin operating the WWTP, within six months parcels can begin tying into the system. If there are delays, dates will be provided.

After the initial six month period, parcels that are not tied into the WWTP, will be referred to Geauga Public Health by GCDWR to enforce the tie in as required by **Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-06 (I)** which states:

“A sewage treatment system shall not be sited, permitted, or installed where a sanitary sewerage system is accessible, unless otherwise excepted by law. Whenever a sanitary sewerage system becomes available to a dwelling or structure served by a sewage treatment system, the dwelling and/or structures shall be connect to the sanitary sewerage system and the sewage treatment system abandoned in accordance with rule 3701-29-21 of the Administrative Code.”

Geauga Public Health will issue orders to parcel owners to comply with the above referenced rule within a specified time period. Once this time period expires we will request an updated list of parcels from GCDWR that are still not tied into the sewer system. Any parcels that have not tied in by the due date will be subject to enforcement by Geauga Public Health, which can include referral to the Geauga County Prosecutor’s Office for legal action.

The contractor or homeowner that performs the tie-in of the parcel to the sewer must abandon the existing sewage system. This includes pumping the tank(s) serving the property. Pumping must be done by a registered septage hauler. Once pumped, the remaining components can then can be properly abandoned. An abandonment form must be submitted to Geauga Public Health along with a copy of the pumping receipt from the registered septage hauler.

Below are the links for the septic tank abandonment form and list of registered septage haulers.

<http://www.geaugacountyhealth.org/Portals/27/Resources/Documents/EnvironmentalHealth/Sewage/AbandoneSeptic.pdf>

<http://www.geaugacountyhealth.org/Portals/27/Resources/Documents/EnvironmentalHealth/Sewage/HAULERS%20BY%20ID%20-09-02-2021.pdf?ver=wm6uSAyTCzFp8ftalr3kug%3d%3d>

Respectfully,

*D Sage*  
David Sage, REHS

Environmental Health Director