

PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Land Management Department
P.O. Box 647, 414 W. Main St, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Phone 715-273-6746 & 715-273-6747
Fax 715-273-6864



MEMO

To: WI DNR Certified Septic Pumpers & WI COMM Certified POWTS Maintainers, who commonly work in Pierce County, Wisconsin
From: James Kleinhans, Zoning Administrator
Emily Lund, Assistant Zoning Administrator
Subject: POWTS Maintenance Reporting
Date: January 12, 2011

How long can a septic system last? Homeowners are told that a properly designed, installed, and maintained system should operate for 20 to 40 years or more.

What regulations apply? Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Wisconsin Administrative Code was revised in the year 2000. Comm. 83.54 addresses the maintenance requirements for all POWTS, indicating the type of maintenance that must be performed on these systems and who must perform it. WI Admin. Code Comm 83.55 addresses POWTS maintenance reporting requirements. State Statute 145.20(5) addresses the requirement that counties must inventory all septic systems (POWTS) in the county and have a maintenance program in place encompassing all of these systems.

If this program has been mandated since 2000, why is this being completed now? Pierce County has an inventory of systems installed since 1980. This was required in order to participate in the Wisconsin Fund. Pierce County is also required to gather POWTS maintenance inspections and/or pumping on all septic systems including POWTS installed prior to 1980. The deadline for counties to complete the inventory is 2015. The changes require that all septic systems, regardless of age, must be inspected by a qualified individual at least once every three years. If the accumulated solids in the tank(s) occupy more than one-third of the tank volume, the tank contents must be pumped. The County is required to compile a computer database of all septic systems located in the County and send notices to those owners due for inspection and pumping to make sure that it is completed and reported to the County once every three years.

How can POWTS maintenance inspections and/or pumping be reported to the County? The home owner may have a form from the County that you can fill out and submit on their behalf. If not, enclosed are forms you can utilize by making copies, filling out or scanning to e-mail, after you inspect and/or pump the septic system, and submit to the County. You can mail, fax, or drop off signed POWTS maintenance information to this department. Forms are also available on our department website. If you want to report weekly or monthly that is acceptable. Your cooperation reporting POWTS maintenance will be greatly appreciated. Please share any thoughts or ideas about this state mandated initiative. Call us with any questions at 715-273-6747.

Pierce County Land Management Department
PO Box 647, 414 W Main Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011
715-273-6747

PIERCE COUNTY SEMI-ANNUAL Holding Tank PUMPING REPORT

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Site Address: _____

Town: _____

Pumper: _____

Location: _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Septic Pumped on this DNR Site #: _____
- # People living in residence: _____
- Property Use (check one): Year around x _____ Seasonal _____
- This site was pumped on this/these dates with this/these volumes:

PUMPER'S SIGNATURE _____ LICENSE # _____

Please return the completed form to the Department of Land Management's office at the address listed above.