



March 29, 2011

Dear Resident,

As you may or may not be aware, The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) requires all municipalities to develop and maintain an up-to-date sewage facilities plan to protect public health from disease, prevent sewage treatment problems and protect the quality of the Commonwealth's surface and ground waters. In order to assure compliance with Act 537, Amity Township is mandated by the Commonwealth to implement a Sewage Management Plan (SMP) for on-lot sewage disposal. Amity Township has developed a Sewage Management Program designed to ensure the operations and maintenance of on-lot sewage treatment systems and assist in preventing the occurrence of costly malfunctions. Malfunctioning on-lot systems can endanger the public health, degrade the environment, and reduce property and community values by discharging onto public areas, private property, or contaminating receiving waters including drinking water supplies.

If you do not have an on-lot system on your property, please call us immediately to correct our records.

As you may know, the condition of your on-lot system relies mostly on the ability of your soil to drain away your daily household wastewater. As this water passes through the soil it is renovated by the physical and chemical properties of the soil. If solids and greases are washed into the drain field, clogs can occur in the soil and adversely affect the chemical biology that is responsible for renovating your wastewater. It is the important job of the septic tank to settle out the solids and greases and allow only wastewater to escape into the drain field; however, the solid and grease levels inside your tank can build up to a point where they begin to spill over the septic tank baffles and into the drain field. The only way to keep this from happening is to pump out your septic tank on a regular basis to keep the solid and grease levels below the septic tank baffles. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) recommends pumping out your septic tank every two to three years. More information about on-lot septic systems is available at the PADEP website: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/>. Click on Subjects and select Wastewater. Information is also available on the Twp website at www.amitytownship.com

Amity Township's adopted Sewage Management Program will require all residences with an on-lot septic system to pump their septic tanks and allow a maintenance inspection every three (3) years. A Pa licensed septic tank pumper/hauler must pump out the contents of your septic tank so that the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) or a PSMA Certified individual employed by a septic hauler is able to conduct a maintenance inspection of your system components. The mandatory maintenance inspection is intended to help you uncover any potential problems that could lead to a system failure. With this assistance and regular pumping of your septic tank, you are taking the necessary steps to prevent a septic system malfunction before a costly replacement is the only option. The Township also succeeds in its effort to assure the continued protection of the public health and its environment.

The Sewage Management Program became effective January 1, 2007. The last three years, 778 properties with on-lot systems were required to comply with the program. This year, the program will be implemented in your area. Every three years, the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer will contact residents in one of the three areas to remind them of their obligation to schedule a Pa licensed sewage hauler to pump any and all tanks and then to schedule for a maintenance inspection, through the Township or with a PSMA certified individual. There is a \$65 fee associated with the permit when the Twp SEO is performing the maintenance inspection and a \$40 fee if your PSMA certified hauler performs the maintenance inspection, payable to the Township of Amity prior to the time of the scheduled inspection. This fee is necessary to cover the costs required to administer the program successfully and pay the Twp inspector. Please note: the hauler's fee to pump and/or inspect your tank/s is additional.

If you have received this letter, and you have an on-lot system, it is necessary for you to schedule the pumping of your septic tank and an inspection with the Township by **December 31, 2011**. If you have had your tank pumped within the last year, please send a copy of the receipt with your payment. It won't be necessary for you to have your tank pumped again, but the system **must be inspected by the Twp SEO or a PSMA certified individual**. Failure to complete comply with this Program by Dec 31, 2011 may lead to penalties. Please find attached an Inspection Scheduling form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Steve Loomis at 610-689-6000 extension 232 or Linda McCue at extension 245, Monday through Friday 8AM to 5PM.

Sincerely,

Board of Supervisors
Amity Township