

Discharging Household Sewage Treatment System NPDES Sampling

Action Level Recommendations

Parameter	Action Level One	Action Level Two
CBOD5	$15 < X < 40$	$X \geq 40$
TSS	$18 < X < 45$	$X \geq 45$
Ammonia (S)	$2.0 < X < 12.0$	$X \geq 12.0$
Ammonia (W)	$4.5 < X < 12.0$	$X \geq 12.0$
Dissolved Oxygen	$6.0 > X > 3.0$	$X \leq 3.0$
Chlorine	$0.038 < X < 0.10$	$X \geq 0.10$
E. coli (non-Lake Erie discharge)	$523 < X < 1030$	$X \geq 1030$
E. coli (Lake Erie discharge)	$235 < X < 1030$	$X \geq 1030$

Action Level One – Letter to homeowner acknowledging concern and requesting verification that service provided as per mandated service contracts. If no verification of service can be provided then service provider must be contacted for routine operation and maintenance as per service contract. Also, highlight responsibility of homeowner to operate and maintain system (a fact sheet will be developed to provide homeowners with do’s and don’ts of system operations).

Action Level Two – Letter to homeowner acknowledging concern and fact that system is not “operating as designed and intended” and corrective action is necessary. Homeowner must contact service provider to provide service to system. Once service provided then homeowner must submit verification to LHD and LHD may require a resample of parameters resulting in Action Level Two review. The homeowner, service provider and local health district should work together to assess the system and try to determine other reasons for poor system performance including a more detailed assessment of potential or excessive system inputs, or substances (i.e. medications, cleaners) that may disrupt the system's performance. If parameters continue to be exceeded, then go to Action Level 3.

Action Level Three - If public health nuisance parameters (e.g. total suspended solids, CBOD₅, fecal coliform or *E. coli*) or ammonia-N routinely exceed Action Level Two thresholds, then an investigation by the local health district is recommended, and may include, but is not limited to, short term repeated system monitoring for parameters of concern (i.e. 5 samples over 2 weeks with a calculation of arithmetic and/or geometric mean as appropriate), and/or installation of tertiary treatment as necessary to abate the nuisance.