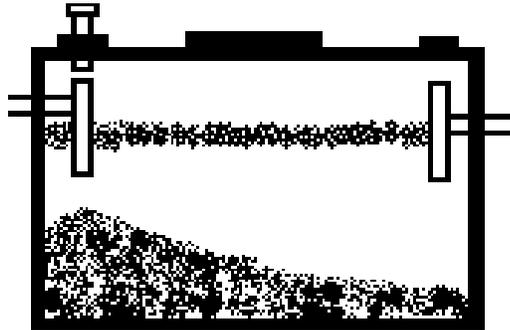




*Dingman Township*

*Pike County, Pennsylvania*

# **Policy for Correcting Malfunctioning Sewage Disposal Systems**



An explanation of the Dingman Township policy for correcting a malfunctioning sewage disposal system.

**Chris Wood**  
**Sewage Enforcement Officer**  
**Office Hours 9:00AM – 10:30AM Monday thru Friday**  
**570-296-9260**

Dingman Township follows the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's **Technical Decision Making Policy** when attempting to correct a malfunctioning sewage disposal system. The policy is quite complicated and the following is an attempt to provide a simplified summary of the policy.

## **Fix what is broken**

If a component is broken, it may be fixed. For example, if a pump dies, a pipe breaks, or a septic tank collapses, the component may be replaced or repaired, as appropriate. There is no need to replace the entire system if the replacement or repair of a component will resolve the problem.

## **Replacing the absorption area**

If repairing a component will not resolve the malfunction then the system must be replaced with a fully compliant conventional or alternate sewage disposal system. Soil testing will be performed. The property owner may choose any system type that can comply with the testing, slope, and special requirements mandated for the particular system type.

**NOTE:** Replacing the absorption area does not automatically require the use of an elevated sandmound. The Dingman Township Sewage Office can provide you with information on the various types of systems that may be used based on your test results.

## **If all else fails ... punt!**

If the property does not have a suitable site that can meet all of the mandated requirements, an attempt may be made to adapt the rules to suit the site. The SEO may allow a reduction in the required isolation distances. With the Board of Supervisor's permission, the isolation distance to a water well may be reduced. With DEP's permission the absorption area may be reduced in size or placed on an area where the soil results do not quite meet the mandated requirements.

## **Worst case scenario**

If a system can not be repaired with a fully compliant system or a modified system as noted above, the property owner may consider an experimental system, small flow treatment facility, or a zero discharge system.

### **Experimental System**

Technology not yet proven to be appropriate for use in Pennsylvania. This may include newly developed technology or technology used in other states. DEP often has a list of technologies that it would like to test.

### **Small Flow Treatment Facilities:**

These are small Sewage Treatment Plants designed and permitted for individual houses. Small Flow Treatment Facilities permits require municipal planning approval a state issued NDPES permit, and are permitted by DEP. As the system must

discharge into a body of water, small flow treatment facilities are often opposed by neighbors and downstream water users.

### **Zero Discharge System**

Technology that does not discharge the treated sewage into the soil, the ground surface, or surface waters. Zero Discharge Systems include holding tanks and evapotranspiration systems.

If you have any questions concerning this document or the procedures for correcting a malfunctioning sewage disposal system feel free to contact the Dingman Township Sewage Office at 570-296-9260.

**The Dingman Township Sewage Department has a number of policy and guidance documents available on-line at:**

**[www.dingmantownship.org/SewageDEP.html](http://www.dingmantownship.org/SewageDEP.html)**

- Sewage Permit Information Package (for constructing a new home)
- How to Choose the Right Sewage Disposal System for Your Property
- Residential Construction in Dingman Township – A Guide to Land Use Regulations and Permits.
- How to Properly Maintain & Operate Your Sewage Disposal System.
- My Sewage Disposal System Permit Expired – Now What Do I Do?
- My Sewage Permit was Denied – Now What Do I Do?
- Procedures for Repairing an Elevated Sandmound Sewage Disposal System.
- Beware of F.O.G.s (Fats – Oils – Grease)
- Information about A/B Soil System Sewage Disposal Systems.
- Inspections of Existing Sewage Systems for Real Estate Sales or Refinancing Purposes.
- Procedures for submitting a Planning Module.
- Proper Usage and Operation of Your Household Water Well.
- Disinfecting Your Water System.