

August 1, 2000

Re: Funding Opportunity (Septage Handling and Disposal)

Attention: Public Officials

Ohio EPA would like to introduce public officials to a funding opportunity available through its Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA).

In February 1997, DEFA offered an interest reduction incentive encouraging municipalities to install septage receiving facilities. DEFA now offers interest rate reductions on loan requests to cities and/or counties with pending sewage plant or collection system improvement projects. The reduced interest rate defrays installation costs for septage receiving facilities. Septage receiving/ treatment facilities may be installed at the headworks of a treatment plant, prior to sludge handling, or at a remote station in the collection system of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). Facilities funded under this program may include:

- , Screening
- , Storage
- , Metering
- , Sampling
- , Solids handling
- , Odor control facilities.

In February, 2000, the incentive program was expanded to cover both capital and interest costs. The incentive program now offers up to a 100 percent funding for the installation of a septage receiving facilities when the project is attached to another wastewater or collection project loan. Communities requesting a stand alone loan for the installation of a septage receiving facilities are instead eligible for a two percent interest rate loan.

Since the program's inception, Ohio EPA has funded major septage handling improvements in Canton, Mentor (Lake County), Warren, Chardon, Boardman (Mahoning County), Sewer District #500 (Medina County), Findlay, Lima, Washington Court House and Springfield. Ohio EPA also anticipates funding septage receiving facilities in year 2000 loan awards for: Lodi, Oberlin, Marion and Strasburg. POTWs that are considering septage facilities in the future include: Ashland, Ravenna, Geauga County and Montgomery County.

A county-wide septage disposal plan is essential to the successful implementation of the proposed Best Management Practices and Programs to ensure proper operation and maintenance of individual sewage disposal systems serving residential and small business dwellings located in areas that are not sewer.

Regularly scheduled system pumping is required to prevent system failures. With the enforcement of Federal

Septage Regulations, many of the septage land application haulers may cease operations; therefore, it is essential to establish a grid of POTWs with septage receiving capabilities to accept septage generated in each county.

The local health districts and Ohio EPA are offering educational programs for POTWs in order to help implement mandatory pumping programs and county-wide septage disposal plans. This effort is to introduce the POTWs to the new funding opportunity and provide guidance on managing a septage receiving program.

Current Ohio EPA water quality data shows that up to 88 percent of the identified causes of stream nonattainment are due to nonpoint sources of pollution. With implementation of the watershed approach, our resources and efforts are shifting to address sources of nonpoint pollution. As you have played a major role in cleaning up point sources, we would welcome the opportunity to work together as a watershed partner to address nonpoint sources of pollution.

Health districts and Ohio EPA would like you to seriously consider taking advantage of the interest rate reduction incentive program to install septage receiving facilities at your plant.

Officials considering installation of septage receiving facilities should contact the officials of Canton and Warren to share their experience with the interest reduction incentive program.

Name, address, telephone number, Fax and E-mail address for specific contacts include:

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If this office can be of any assistance in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at (330)963-1111.

Sincerely,

Keith Riley, P. E.
Assistant District Chief
Northeast District Office