



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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October 14, 2003

Vincent J. Squillace, CAE
Ohio Home Builders Association, Inc.
17 South High Street - 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Calculation for residential sewage flow rates

Dear Mr. Squillace:

Thank you for your September 15, 2003, letter regarding Ohio EPA's use of the 100 gallons per capita as a design standard for wastewater treatment facilities. Your letter stated that the local communities across the state are using this standard to determine the appropriate fees for connecting to the sanitary sewer. In addition, you requested Ohio EPA to clarify its position concerning the 100 gallon per capita standard and to inform local officials that the standard is not a mandated requirement.

The 100 gallons per day per capita is a well accepted design standard for estimating the sewage flow from domestic sources. The 100 gallons per day per capita along with a peaking factor is intended to cover flows generated from domestic sources and normal inflow and infiltration that is associated with modern day construction techniques. The standard is also specified in the *Recommended Standards for Wastewater Facilities* or what is commonly referred to as "Ten States." "Ten States" is used as a guidance document for designing wastewater treatment facilities by Ohio and nine other states in the Midwestern portion of the United States.

However, the use of 100 gallons per day per capita as a typical design standard should not be confused or interpreted as a mandate by Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA uses this standard and "Ten States" as a guideline for designing wastewater treatment facilities especially in the absence of project-specific information. If there is site-specific or case-specific information that would justify a different standard, Ohio EPA is more than willing to review that information prior to making a determination on a particular project. In fact, this approach is identified in "Ten States" as an alternative analysis for developing different design standards. We recognize that new technology can result in lower flows and we would encourage its use.

Bob Taft, Governor
Jennette Bradley, Lieutenant Governor
Christopher Jones, Director

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Unfortunately, this does not address your concern with the local officials' use of the 100 gallons per day per capita design standard to determine the appropriate fees. The issue of fee structure and what is appropriate for new home development is a local issue. Public wastewater treatment facilities have primacy when it comes to the daily management of their system. Ohio EPA does not have authority to dictate to the local authorities what should or should not be the appropriate fee for tying in new construction.

I hope that the information provided in this letter will help to explain Ohio EPA's position concerning this standard. In an effort to alleviate any confusion with this design standard, please feel free to share this letter with any interested parties. In addition, Ohio EPA will post this letter on its web site to help clarify Ohio EPA's use of this design standard.

If you would like to discuss this matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Novak, Division of Surface Water, at 644-2035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Jones".

Christopher Jones
Director

CJ:bl