

# East Fallowfield Township

## Act 537 Plan Update

### List of Terms and Definitions

**Act 537** – Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act. Providing for the planning and regulation of community sewage systems and individual sewage systems; requiring municipalities to submit plans for systems in their jurisdiction; authorizing grants; requiring permits for persons installing such systems; requiring disclosure statements in certain land sale contracts; authorizing the Department of Environmental Resources (now Department of Environmental Protection) to adopt and administer rules, regulations, standards and procedures; creating an advisory committee; providing remedies and prescribing penalties.

**CCHD** – Chester County Health Department. Responsible for issuing permits for new and replacement OLDS, as well as OLDS repairs.

**Cesspool** – Method of On-lot Sewage Disposal. Typically constructed of open-jointed walls of concrete block or stone with open bottoms and were installed prior to 1970. Solids settle to the bottom and effluent seeps through the jointed walls and bottom. Unless properly maintained, sidewalls and bottom can clog with solids resulting in sewage backing up into the house or discharge to the ground surface.

**Chapter 71** – Title 25 Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 71, Administration of Sewage Facilities Planning Program. Adopted in accordance with the duties imposed upon the Department (PADEP) under the act (Act 537) and The Clean Streams Law and applies to municipalities, local agencies and delegated agencies administering the planning provisions of the act and to persons subdividing land or planning, designing or installing sewage facilities. Governs the sewage planning requirements for sewage facilities being proposed by municipalities to resolve existing sewage disposal problems, to provide for the sewage disposal needs of new land development and otherwise to provide for future sewage disposal needs of a resident or landowner in a municipality.

**Holding Tank** – Method of On-lot Sewage Disposal. Similar in appearance to a septic tank but different. Sewage is stored and removed by a pumper/hauler and disposed of off premises, typically at a permitted Wastewater Treatment Plant. Usually implemented where no other means of adequate sewage disposal is available. Requires frequent pumping because sizing requirements are for a minimum of three (3) days storage volume. Should require a Pump and Haul agreement with the municipality, and permit from the CCHD/PADEP.

**LPSS** – Low Pressure Sewer System. Using a series of grinder pumps, small diameter force mains, and check valves, sewage is macerated into slurry and pumped into the force main for conveyance.

**OLDS** – Individual On-lot Disposal System

**PADEP** – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

**PAWC** – Pennsylvania American Water Company

**PSMA** – Pennsylvania Septage Management Association

**Septic Tank** – Component of an OLDS. Typically concrete tank with two (2) chambers, baffles, inflow, and outflow pipes, and risers. Sewage is decomposed through bacterial activity. When properly maintained will separate solids (sinks to bottom) and scum (floats to top) from liquid effluent preventing disposal field from clogging and ensuring adequate function of the disposal field into the future.

**SMP** – Sewage/Septage Management Program. A method identified in Chapter 71.71 by which Municipalities can assure proper long-term Operation and Maintenance of OLDS.