

PENN FOREST TOWNSHIP

NOTICE REGARDING TESTING VERIFICATION & PERMIT RENEWALS

Approved sewage permits are valid for three years. However, some permits have been extended by executive order of Pennsylvania Governors (PA Act 46 of 2010 and PA Act 87 of 2012). If your permit was issued between January 1, 2006 and July 1, 2013, these permits are valid only for the listed permittee until July 1, 2016. Please be aware that if your permit is more than three years old and the septic system has not yet been constructed, some action may be required.

With the expiration of many permits pending, property owners/permittee's may wonder what they need to do to "renew" their permit. Please be aware that you do NOT need to maintain a septic permit unless you have plans to construct the proposed system within the next three years. In many cases, property owners have had their lots tested to confirm suitability for onlot sewage disposal as a means to increase the value of their property or for marketing purposes. Please be aware that it is enough that the Township maintains documentation confirming suitable testing for your property. Provided the test site has not been disturbed, there is little reason for the Township to revoke prior testing or require new testing. The best thing that you can do is make sure the drainfield area remains staked and protected.

If a property is under contract for sale, the buyer may request the seller to provide proof that the property has been tested and approved for onlot sewage disposal. Likewise, an existing owner may want assurance that the prior testing is still acceptable. In these cases, the Township typically performs a verification of the prior testing. This verification involves a review of the prior testing results and a site visit to compare current site conditions with those documented in the Township's file.

Parties interested in having a verification performed should complete the *Site Evaluation Application* (available on the Township's website) to request a verification of prior testing. The property corners need to be staked and flagged and the four corners of the drainfield depicted in the design must also be staked and flagged on the property prior to making this application. The cost for this verification is \$150.00, made payable to "*Penn Forest Township.*" Please check with the Township to confirm the availability of escrow monies that may be applied toward this fee.

Once verified, the Township will provide a verification letter to confirm that the prior testing is still suitable along with instructions on how to secure a new permit if/when building is proposed to commence. These verification letters are valid for six years. With the verification letter in hand, a new/prospective owner that is interested in building could come into the Township and go through the permitting process as detailed in the verification letter. Again, applications for septic permits would **ONLY** be required in cases where the owner plans to construct the system within three years of securing the permit.

When a verification of prior testing has been performed within the past six years and there is a prior septic design on file with the Township, an applicant would need to submit the *Application for an Onlot Sewage Disposal System Permit* along with the permit fee of \$150.00. If it has been more than six years since the prior testing was verified, the property and drainfield will need to be re-staked for a re-verification prior to permitting and the permit fee would be \$300.00 to cover the cost of the verification and the permit. In either case, the permit applicant will also be responsible for the Township's construction inspection fee of \$450.00.

If you have further questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer.