



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund**
2002-0203

St. Clair County Drain
Commissioner's Office
21 Airport Drive
St. Clair, MI 48079

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St. Clair County Drain Commissioner's Office Illicit Connection Elimination Project

September 2005 - June 2009

Over a period of four years, the St. Clair County Drain Commissioner's Office has surveyed outfalls within the Belle River Watershed, Lower Black River Watershed, Mill Creek, North Branch Clinton River Watershed, Lake Huron Direct Drainage and St. Clair River Direct Drainage for signs of illicit connections. Of the 3,397 outfalls surveyed, 175 were determined to be illicit connections emanating from failing septic systems. One hundred thirty-four of these illegal connections contained sanitary wastewater, while an additional 41 contained grey water only. Property owners have corrected 137 of these septic systems through major and minor repairs, field replacement or by connecting to a sanitary sewer. This effort has removed 9.7 million gallons of wastewater from our waterways annually. An additional 3.4 million gallons of untreated wastewater will be eliminated from local waterways annually once the remaining 38 systems are corrected. This has resulted in the elimination of thousands of pounds of nitrogen, phosphorus, oils, and solids from reaching area surface waters as detailed below.

Pollutant	Estimated Reduction (lbs/yr)	
	Current	Projected*
BOD ₅	10,900	14,900
Total nitrogen	2,640	3,630
Total phosphorus	530	730
Total suspended solids	5,720	7,850
Fats, oils & grease	1,140	1,570

*Based on the correction of all 175 systems.



Positive Dye Test Results

Future Activities:

- Oversee the correction of identified illicit connections.
- Continue identifying illicit connections as a part of field activities and forward to the appropriate agencies for follow-up.



Grant Amount: \$ 334,497
Match Funds: \$ 154,968

Total Amount: \$ 489,465

Project Partners:

St. Clair County Health Department
Berlin Township
Burtchville Township
Casco Township
China Township
Clay Township
Clyde Township
Columbus Township
Cottrellville Township
East China Township
Emmett Township
Fort Gratiot Township
Grant Township
Greenwood Township
Ira Township
Kenockee Township
Kimball Township
Lynn Township
Mussey Township
Port Huron Township
Riley Township
St. Clair Township
Wales Township

Village of Capac
Village of Emmett

City of Algonac
City of Marine City
City of Marysville
City of Port Huron
City of St. Clair
City of Yale

Consultant:

Environmental Consulting &
Technology, Inc.

