



Informational Bulletin

Application of Part 22 Rules For Campgrounds with On-site Wastewater Systems

Authority

The Part 22 Rules ([Rules](#)), adopted pursuant to Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, took effect on August 26, 1999. These Rules apply to all campground wastewater systems. The Groundwater Discharge Unit of the Permit Section administers these Rules.

Scope and Structure

The Part 22 Rules regulate discharges to groundwater. "Discharge" is broadly defined to encompass the direct or indirect discharge of a waste, wastewater, or pollutant to the ground or groundwater. Similarly, "waste" or "wastewater" are broadly defined. Both specifically reference sewage. The Rules provide that a "person" (again broadly defined) may discharge provided the requirements of the Part 22 Rules are met. No discharge can be "injurious" or be likely to become "injurious" to "protected uses" of the "waters of the state." To that end, discharge authorizations are granted by various mechanisms depending on the degree of threat to groundwater created by the discharge. Factors such as flow or the type of wastewater treatment will dictate which Rule will apply.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to summarize certain provisions of the Part 22 Rules as they apply to sanitary sewage and campground wastewater systems. Thus, the reader is encouraged to refer to the Part 22 Rules for specific applications and projects, especially when the proposal includes the discharge of wastes other than sanitary sewage to the wastewater system, or campground projects that include other types of development.

Other Requirements

Michigan's Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the code, also contain standards and requirements for campground wastewater systems. The reader should recognize that a campground wastewater system must also meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code, in addition to meeting the Part 22 Rules.

All Campground Wastewater Systems

Rule 2204 – All Campgrounds with On-site Sewage Systems.

This rule applies to all categories of discharges. Briefly summarized, this rule indicates the discharge from the on-site wastewater system shall not be "injurious," shall not cause runoff to or ponding on adjacent property, and shall not cause "nuisance conditions." This rule also references isolation distances from the campground's on-site

wastewater system to wells of various classifications, both private and public. Rule 2204 specifically requires that the authorization to discharge be through one or more of the Rules listed below.

Authorizations for Campground Wastewater Systems

Rule 2210 – Exemption

For campgrounds with a septic tank drainfield, Rule 2210(a) states that a discharge permit is not required for a discharge from a campground system if:

- The system meets the requirements of Rule 2204,
- The sanitary sewage discharged to the system is not mixed with other waste,
- The maximum day flow rate from the system is less than 1,000 gallons per day (gpd) and the system is designed, constructed, and approved in accordance with the requirements of the local sanitary code, or the "Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal," dated April 1994.
- The maximum day flow rate from the system is less than 6,000 gpd and the system is designed, constructed, and approved in accordance with the publication entitled "Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal," dated April 1994.

Note: Widely dispersed septic tank drainfield systems may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis under Rule 2210(y).

Rule 2211 – Permit by Rule

For campgrounds with a septic tank drainfield system with a maximum day flow rate greater than 6,000 gpd but less than 10,000 gpd, Rule 2211 authorizes discharge if the following conditions are met:

- The requirements of Rule 2204 must be met as well as the requirements of Rule 2212 regarding notification. A person must notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (EQP-5305, Groundwater Discharge Authorization Application) before a discharge, when there is a change in the discharge, or 5 years from the date of the previous notification for continuing discharges.
- The septic tank drainfield system shall be designed, constructed, and approved in accordance with the "Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal," dated April 1994.
- For a system that is constructed, reconstructed, or expanded after August 26, 1999, the system must be monitored by a flow measurement device. Also, a report must be submitted to the department by January 31 of each year for the preceding year. The report must contain average daily flows based on weekly measurements and the total annual flow for the system.

Rule 2215 – General Permit

This rule is intended for substantially similar types of operations treating the same types of wastes with the same effluent limitations, the same operating conditions, similar monitoring, and similar reporting. Campground proposals for lagoon systems with an annual average flow rate of less than 10,000 gpd would be considered under this rule. These proposals would not need to meet the liner requirements under Rule 2237, and rapid infiltration seepage cells could be used for disposal. Additional information is contained in the attached General Permit for a lagoon system with an annual average flow rate of less than 10,000 gpd.

Rule 2216 (2) –Permits for Specific Discharges

Campground proposals for development with a constructed wetland system would fall within Rule 2216(2)(a) provided the system discharge is less than 20,000 gpd. The following conditions would apply:

- The requirements of Rule 2204 would need to be met, the requirements of Rule 2217 must be met (application and public notice requirements), and a permit must be obtained from the department.
- The specified design requirements of Rule 2216(2)(a) must be met. Some highlights of this section of the rule include the requirement for a minimum of two septic tanks in series with a minimum combined volume of 2 times the daily design flow, a treatment process to enhance nitrification, the composite liner meeting Rule 2237 specifications, the wetland system being sized for 7 days retention, and the system having a minimum of 2 cells. Further, the effluent would need to be monitored as required by Rule 2232 (a), (b), (e), and (f) if the flow rate were greater than 10,000 gpd.

Rule 2216 (3) –Permits for Specific Discharges

This section of the Part 22 Rules sets forth certain requirements for campground wastewater system proposals with flow rates less than 50,000 gpd and would apply to campground proposals for lagoons with an annual average flow rate greater than 10,000 gpd and less than 50,000 gpd. This subrule also addresses treatment plants using activated sludge technology. This technology is rarely, if ever, appropriate for seasonal campground operations. The following conditions apply to lagoon proposals.

- The requirements of Rule 2204 must be met, including the isolation distance specified in Rule 2204(2)(d)(ii), the requirements of Rule 2217 must be met (application and public notice requirements), and a permit must be obtained from the department.
- The sanitary sewage cannot be mixed with other wastes.
- The discharge must be limited and monitored in accordance with Rule 2232.
- The construction, construction certification, certified operator, and operation and maintenance manual requirements of Rule 2230 must be met.
- The requirements of Rule 2231 must be met in the operation and design of a lagoon treatment system, and the associated land disposal system must meet the requirements for land application contained in Rule 2233.
- The lagoon liner requirements under Rule 2237 must be met.

Rule 2218 – All Other Proposals for Campground Wastewater Systems

No information is given regarding the requirements of this rule because no campground proposals are currently envisioned that would fall within these requirements. For details on basis of design, waste characterization, hydrogeological studies, and other requirements for wastewater systems that need to meet Rule 2218, the reader is directed to the Part 22 Rules.

Information or Questions

Should you have questions related to a campground project and the Part 22 Rules, please contact the Manufactured Housing and Recreational Resources Unit at 517-241-1340, or our mailing address as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER BUREAU
DRINKING WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
MANUFACTURED HOUSING & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES UNIT
PO BOX 30273
LANSING MI 48909-7773

For information or questions pertaining to other aspects of the Part 22 Rules, please contact the Groundwater Discharge Unit, Permits Section, at 517-373-8148, or their mailing address as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER BUREAU
PERMITS SECTION
GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE UNIT
PO BOX 30273
LANSING MI 48909-7773

<p>The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the MDEQ Office of Personnel Services, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909.</p>
