



The mission of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is to serve our entire community and to achieve health equity by promoting well-being, preventing disease, and protecting the environment through partnerships, innovation, and excellence in public health practice.

September 17, 2021

Attn: Hal Wolff  
2045 McKinley  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

RE: Unauthorized Sewage Disposal / New Well Permit Application (#C21-184)  
07645 Cedar Lane; Lot #24 of Tonnadoonah Subdivision  
Section 14, Eveline Township, Charlevoix County; Tax ID #: 15-006-700-024-00

Mr. Wolff,

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, a representative of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) conducted a site visit in accordance with the well permit application received for a proposed water supply well to serve the premise. The above-described parcel is a lakefront parcel on Lake Charlevoix and is located within the established Tonnadoonah Subdivision.

There is an existing cottage present on the parcel near the lake, along with a camper trailer that was observed to be directly connected to a sewage pipe extending below the ground surface. Probing in the area of the sewage pipe below what appears to be an outhouse, did not reveal evidence of a septic tank. It is unknown whether the observed sewer pipe discharges into a septic tank or simply disposes into the subsurface. It is also unknown whether or not plumbing exists in either the cottage or newly constructed accessory building equipped with a satellite dish (labeled as a "shed" on the submitted site plan). This Department has no record of a septic permit nor approval of the current wastewater disposal method available on file for this property.

Article II Definitions, Section 2-24, states: "*Habitable Building: The term habitable building shall mean any structure or part thereof where persons live, sleep, reside, are employed, or congregate, for any period of time, and which is occupied in whole or part. For the purposes of this definitions, a structure shall include, but are not limited to houses, mobile homes, campers, motor vehicles and garages or other types of accessory buildings.*"

Article II Definitions, Section 2-24, states: "*Privies: Outdoor toilets utilizing a septic tank or "vault" for the collection and storage of sewage.*"

Article II Definitions, Section 2-24, states in part: "*Sewage: The liquid waste from all habitable buildings, as well as human excreta, wastes from toilets, urinals, sinks, laundries, shower bath, bath tubs, dishwashers, garbage grinders, and septic tank overflow or effluent and any other liquid waste of organic or chemical nature...*"

Article IV Sewage Treatment and Disposal, Section 4-1, states in part: "*It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or alter any premise which is not equipped with a sewage treatment and disposal system that complies with this Code...*"

Article V Requirements for Construction of Individual Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems, Section 5-25, states in part: *"...All premises are restricted from having water under pressure or plumbing where privies are permitted for wastewater disposal. All privies must be constructed using a watertight vault approved by the Health Officer. Privies can only be approved on sites that meet the site approval criteria outlined in Section 4-9."*

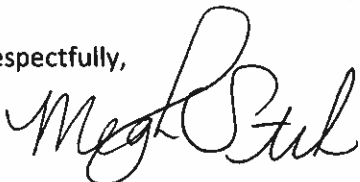
During the site visit, multiple soil borings were attempted to evaluate soil conditions and to determine presence or absence of groundwater and/or impervious/limiting stratum. The soil borings were located in the wooded area south of the existing outhouse, greater than 100 feet to Lake Charlevoix. All five (5) attempted soil borings were refusal by rock due to difficult soil conditions.

The observed condition of the premise, including the habitable building with interior plumbing connected directly to the unauthorized sewage line, constitutes a violation to the above items of the 2017 District Sanitary Code. Let this letter serve as a **cease and desist order** of any further discharge of sewage into the observed sewage line effectively immediately. Any wastewater generated onsite shall be contained with the camper trailer and hauled offsite for proper disposal (i.e. campground dumping station). The owner shall also submit a septic permit application **within 15 business days** of the date of this letter (October 8, 2021). Note, a backhoe cut will be required at the time of application submittal due to the difficult soil conditions observed onsite.

In turn, the submitted well permit application (#C21-184) will be held in a pending status until compliant wastewater disposal is permitted.

It is also important to note, the premise conditions may require approval from other agencies outside of this Department, including the Charlevoix Building Department, Eveline Township Zoning, and the Tonnadoonah Association.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please feel free to contact this writer at 231-533-1013.

Respectfully,  


Meghan Stih  
Environmental Sanitarian

CC: Ken Visser, Mallard Cove/Tonnadoonah Association  
Deb Graber, Eveline Township Zoning Administrator  
Charlevoix County Building Department  
Mike Jones, HDNW Environmental Health District Supervisor