



*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.*

October 21, 2021

*Revised letter*

Halsey Wolff  
2045 McKinley  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

RE: Existing System Evaluation (C21-033), 07645 Cedar Lane East Jordan, MI 49729; Lot 24 of Tonnadoonah Section 14, Eveline Township, Charlevoix County  
Tax ID 15-006-700-024-00

Mr. Wolff,

On October 4, 2021, two representatives of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan conducted an evaluation of the existing wastewater system, at the above referenced property, in response to the unauthorized connection of the newer camper trailer to the outdoor toilet and wastewater system observed while onsite for the submitted well permit application.

During the evaluation, the wastewater system was evaluated for compliance with current regulations and to determine their current operational status. The following observations were documented at the time of inspection:

1. The property is a lakefront parcel on Lake Charlevoix with a gradual slope down heading north toward the lake. This parcel is located within the established Tonnadoonah Subdivision.
2. There is a screened-in seasonal building near the lake, an updated recreational camper had recently been brought onto the property, and a new "shed" structure.
  - a. The owner revealed the inside of the shed, which consisted of characteristics deemed to that of a habitable building, including a futon sofa, stove, and microwave in addition to bike storage.
3. The owner had stated to recently replaced the previous camper trailer with a newer camper trailer and has since connected it directly to the existing septic system. The replacement of a habitable structure with interior plumbing constitutes a successor building with respect to Section 2-53 of the District Sanitary Code.
4. This Department does not have any record of a septic permit available on file for the existing wastewater system. Through conversations with the property owner, the exact age of the system is unknown but has been present since being under the family ownership over the past 54 years.
  - a. The exposed septic tank lid and the presence of filter fabric over the drainfield stone appear to be evident of work done to the system in more recent years. Note, no record of a valid septic permit is available on file.
5. The existing septic tank is stated to have an approximate capacity of 300-gallons.
6. The end of the drainfield was exposed for this evaluation and consists of a 3'x10' drainfield with two laterals for a total of 30 sqft of absorption area.
7. Multiple soil borings were conducted onsite and revealed the following:  
Soil Boring #1: off the northeast corner of the outdoor toilet structure and existing septic tank; 86' to Lake Charlevoix ordinary highwater mark  
0 – 12" Sandy Topsoil with gravel

12 – 18" Medium Sand with gravel  
18 – 32" Fine Sand with Silt (mottled, dull at 24")  
32 – 50" Silt Loam (dull)  
50 – 65" Sandy Loam (damp at 56")  
65" + Refusal by rock  
Seasonal high groundwater noted at 56"

Soil Boring #2: south of SB#1, west of driveway, directly east of new "shed" structure

0 – 9" Loamy Sand Topsoil  
9 – 24" Medium Sand  
24 – 26" Medium Sand with Loamy Sand pockets  
26 – 62" Medium Sand  
62 – 72" Medium Sand with Silt Loam pockets (moisture increasing with depth, saturated at 70")  
Seasonal high groundwater noted at 62"

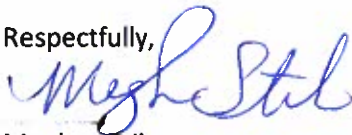
8. Adequate isolation from neighboring water wells, septic systems, and surface water exists for the installation of a complaint onsite septic system.

Based on the above noted observations, it is the opinion of this department that the existing wastewater system is not in substantial compliance with the District Sanitary Code as it is severely undersized, and the connection of the new camper trailer is **DENIED**. **The owner shall immediately discontinue the direct connection between the new camper trailer and the existing wastewater system.** Any incidental wastewater generated onsite shall be contained with the recreational unit and hauled offsite for proper disposal (i.e. campground dumping station). **Written notice and verification of the above-described disconnection or a septic permit application shall be submitted to this agency within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter.** This existing system evaluation may be rolled over into a residential septic permit for an additional fee of \$148 within 30 days of the date of this letter. Note, the well permit will continue to be held in pending awaiting the until compliant wastewater disposal is permitted and/or verified.

An applicant may appeal to the Board of Appeals any order, requirement, decision, or determination that is made by the Health Officer. Note, each appeal shall be in writing and shall be filed, with the County fee, within sixty (60) days after the date of the decision that is being appealed. Please reference Article XI Board of Appeals of the District Sanitary Code for more information regarding the appeals process. The District Sanitary Code is available on our agency website, [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) and hard copies are available at our Department offices.

As previously mentioned, the conditions on the premise may require approval from other agencies outside of this Department, including the Charlevoix Building Department, Eveline Township Zoning, the Tonnadoonah Association.

Respectfully,



Meghan Stih  
Environmental Health Sanitarian

cc. Ken Visser, Mallard Cove/Tonnadoonah Association  
John Cochrane, Charlevoix County Building Department  
Eveline Township Zoning Administrator  
Mike Jones, HDNW Environmental Health District Supervisor