

## **INFORMATION FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER CONSIDERING AN AEROBIC “ATU” ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY**

### **Maintenance Contracts and Fees:**

Aerobic systems require continuous ongoing maintenance, whether or not the system is in use. The initial contract period for new systems is 2 years. Washington County charges \$60/year/residential system, and \$180/year/commercial food service establishments, to recover some costs of tracking these systems. These fees may be passed-on to you by the maintenance provider. Tracking fee payments received late are charged a late fee. Maintenance contracts cover the cost of the maintenance provider’s inspection, testing, and reporting **only**, parts and labor costs to repair the system are an additional cost. After the initial 2 year contract you are responsible for getting a new contract or you may be allowed to perform testing, reporting, and repairs yourself after successfully completing an aerobic maintenance course approved by us. You are not required to renew your contract with the original maintenance provider; any licensed maintenance provider registered and in good standing with Washington County may be used. New and renewal contracts must be submitted to this department at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the previous contract to avoid a late fee.

### **Inspection, Testing, and Reporting:**

Maintenance providers are to inspect, test, and report on each single-family residential system a minimum of 4 times per year, at 3-month intervals. Systems on commercial food service establishments require inspection, testing, and reporting every month. Reports that indicate a malfunctioning system require you, the owner, to insure that the system is brought into compliance, re-inspected, and that another report is submitted within 10 days of the previous report. Maintenance providers may charge you for such extra inspections and reports, which do not alter or postpone the regular maintenance schedule. A waterproof tag must be placed on the unit by the maintenance provider and the date of each inspection must be recorded on the tag. The maintenance provider is required to submit copies of each maintenance report to you and this department within 14 days of each inspection.

### **Disinfection:**

Disinfection **must** be maintained at all times. You, the owner, are responsible for assuring that the system always has chlorine. Either calcium hypochlorite tablets labeled for wastewater disinfection for tablet chlorinators (not pool chlorine) or liquid bleach for liquid chlorinators must be used.

### **Property Access:**

You, the owner, must assure that the maintenance provider and/or this department has access to the aerobic system. Access shall be provided during normal business hours (8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday).

### **Problems:**

When a problem arises with your aerobic system, immediately contact your maintenance provider. If at any time your maintenance provider fails to respond in a timely manner, or fails to provide the required maintenance, please contact this department.

### **Altering the Aerobic System:**

Once an aerobic system has been installed, and passed inspection, it may not be altered in **any** way without prior approval from this department. This includes moving or changing the spray of the sprinklers or connecting another structure to the system. If something needs to be altered, contact this department first.

### **Tank Pumping:**

Aerobic systems usually require that the tanks be pumped-out every 2-4 years, depending on usage. Failure to pump-out the system when needed may result in biochemical overload, odor, and unsatisfactory performance. Failure to correct the situation may result in costly repairs and/or fines. Grease and garbage disposal waste can and will cause problems with any type of septic system.