



CRAWFORD COUNTY SANITATION & ZONING

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ATTN: **Owner's of Property Not Served by Municipal Sewer (Unsewered)**

SUBJECT: Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (**POWTS**, "Septic System") Maintenance Program & Special Assessment **FEE** on Tax Bills

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to clarify property **owner responsibilities** regarding the above cited program as detailed in §15.07 of the Code of Ordinances of Crawford County, Wis. (County Code). **FIRST**, if either of the following is true of a POWTS, the only likely change will be completion of a report and submittal to the County **at least once every 3 years**:

- Already on a normal (scheduled) 2-3 year service (pumping) cycle
- Serviced (pumped) in 2017-18 and therefore likely not needed again until 2020-21

Each POWTS owner has until **AUGUST 31st, 2021**, to submit the first **Maintenance & Servicing Report**. For various reasons, **pumpers can typically only perform non-emergency servicing May 1st to August 31st**; keep this in mind as a **late fee of \$100** will be assessed for delinquent reports. Only a **WI licensed** service provider can complete the report, aside from the owner's signature and phone, fire, and parcel numbers. **Service providers** will likely be reporting online by 05/01/2019; a paper report is provided on the back of this letter for reference and interim use.

Rural property owners received **orange slips** with last year's tax bills indicating that POWTS maintenance & servicing requirements exist. [SPS 383.255](#), Wis. Admin. Code, requires counties to implement a POWTS maintenance program by 10/01/2019. Accordingly, the County Board updated Chapter 15 of the County Code in April 2018 to ensure compliance and placed an **annual fee of \$7.00 per POWTS** on owner's taxes to offset administration costs. All unsewered dwellings with plumbing are required to have a POWTS; if it is believed this charge has been incorrectly applied to this property,

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Property owners are encouraged to utilize service provider knowledge and plan accordingly if a POWTS is known or suspected to be failing/failed/nonexistent as replacement may be required.

Financial Assistance Program info is available at the website listed above or by request (**income limits apply**). The WI FUND Grant Program ends January 31st, 2020! (replacement of certain failed, **pre-1978** systems)

Minimal regulation existed prior to 1973 concerning treatment of domestic wastewater in unsewered areas; therefore, many systems installed prior to 1973 have difficulty satisfying [SPS 383.03\(2\)\(b\)2.b.](#), which reads:

"An existing POWTS installed **prior to December 1, 1969**, with an **infiltrative surface** of a treatment and dispersal component that is located **less than 2 feet above groundwater or bedrock** shall be considered to discharge final effluent that is sewage, unless proven otherwise."

These systems, those that **discharge directly to drain tiles or the ground** (surface or water), and those installed **since December 1, 1969**, with an **infiltrative surface** of a treatment and dispersal component that is located **less than 3 feet above groundwater or bedrock**, are considered **failed or failing**. These systems are often referred to as (sometimes inaccurately): cistern, cesspool, drywell, French drain, graywater system, outfall/overflow (pipe), seepage pit, etc.

