

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the Department of Commerce modifies the regulations of Comm 83 to make the cost of updating or upgrading affordable.**

Since 2000 when the Comm 83 regulations came into effect, the citizens of Douglas County and the Douglas County Board formed a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) Committee to look into changing/modifying the Comm 83 regulations. The current regulations make the cost of updating or upgrading a septic system prohibitive to a fair number of rural residents. It is our hope that these regulations be modified or changed to allow for the use of perc tests, for allowing upgrade of systems to bring them up to code without replacing the entire system, and for making the responsibility of managing their POWTS system the responsibility of the individual landowner vs. Douglas County.

The Current Comm 83 Regulations allows for the use of soil tests that were meant for agriculture and not for the percability of the soils beneath an in-ground or mound system. The former regulations would allow the use of perc tests to show if septic waste could be absorbed. Since the change in these regulations, conventional systems were disallowed and very expensive filter type systems are being used that require monthly maintenance.

The new regulations also move the responsibility of maintaining records of maintenance from the individual to the County. To avoid high costs to the county, landowners should be trained to do the record keeping and maintenance on their own and keep their own records for verification.

For more information contact:

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