



PHELPS/MARIES COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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The Phelps/Maries County Health Department will no longer be issuing on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) construction permits beginning October 1, 2024 in Phelps County and October 16, 2024 in Maries County. A construction permit is generally required before installing or repairing most OWTS, such as tanks, lateral lines, lagoons, etc. However, certain residential properties may be exempt from the state permitting requirements. These permits will be issued by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) on and after the effective dates.

The Phelps County Commission met on September 10, 2024 and unanimously voted on an ordinance to repeal the existing ordinance governing on-site wastewater disposal systems in areas of Phelps County, Missouri, not on public system adopted by the Phelps County Commission on January 29, 1998. This effect will take place October 1, 2024.

The Maries County Commission met on September 26, 2024 and unanimously voted on an ordinance to repeal the existing ordinance governing on-site wastewater disposal systems in areas of Maries County, Missouri, not on public system adopted by the Maries County Commission on March 23, 1998. This effect will take place October 16, 2024.

The Phelps/Maries County Health Department has been working closely with the DHSS Bureau of Environmental Health Services Onsite Wastewater Program to ensure a smooth transition. All active, complete construction permit applications in place on the day before the effective date will remain under the jurisdiction of the Phelps/Maries County Health Department. All OWTS construction permit applications received on or after the effective dates will fall under the jurisdiction of DHSS. Information regarding the application process can be found on the DHSS Onsite Wastewater Treatment website (<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/>).

Pursuant to RSMo 701.029, no person or property owner may operate an on-site sewage disposal system or transport and dispose of waste removed there from in such a manner that may result in the contamination of surface waters or groundwater or present a nuisance or imminent health hazard to any other person or property owner. The Phelps/Maries County Health Department will remain the agent in charge of investigating sewage complaints as part of a communicable disease investigation or received from an aggrieved party or adjacent landowner. If it is found that a nuisance does exist, the property owner shall comply with state standards when repairing or replacing the on-site sewage disposal system (RSMo 701.308).

This change was made to ensure more efficient OWTS permitting processes and to focus local resources on more pressing community issues and needs. If you need further information, please refer to the DHSS Onsite Wastewater Treatment website at <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/> or the Phelps/Maries County Health Department website at <https://www.phelpscountyhealth.com/safe-environment>.

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