



April 1, 2024

NOTICE: DSPTS Suspends SPS 385.60(4) - Hydrograph Procedure Effective April 1, 2024

The groundwater levels in Wisconsin Central Sands Region (parts of Adams, Juneau, Portage, Waushara, and Wood counties) have become erratic due to recent, significant recharge events. Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPTS) Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) Program staff observed the erratic groundwater levels and consulted with the Wisconsin State Geologist's Office at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) and the POWTS Technical Advisory Committee. All parties recommend that the hydrograph procedure as described in Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 385.60(4) be suspended at this time.

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 385.60(4)(f), "the governmental unit or the department may reject or suspend use of the hydrograph procedure when erratic groundwater tables are present due to recent, significant recharge events." These conditions have been observed by DSPTS staff and confirmed by WGNHS staff. Accordingly, DSPTS suspends the hydrographic procedure for soil saturation determinations effective immediately. Any plans received after the effective date of this Notice will require one of the alternative methods of soil evaluation to be utilized.

Under Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 385, the hydrograph procedure is one of several methods for certified soil testers to utilize when performing a site and soil evaluation. During this period, where the use of the hydrograph procedure is suspended, certified soil testers may continue to utilize all other methods of performing site and soil evaluations such as a soil morphological evaluation under SPS 385.20, interpretive determinations under SPS 385.60(2), and soil saturation determinations under SPS 385.60(3).

DSPTS will continue to consult with the WGNHS and the POWTS Technical Advisory Committee concerning the matter. The suspension of the hydrographic procedure will remain in effect until such a time that groundwater levels normalize, and suitable controls are in place to safely allow for the use of the method.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact your area Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Specialist: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Programs/Maps/Wastewater.pdf>

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