



Upper Missouri District Health Unit

"Your Public Health Professionals"

DIVIDE COUNTY

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MCKENZIE COUNTY

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MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

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WILLIAMS COUNTY

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Study 2241- Sewage Treatment System Regulation Study
10:00 a.m., August 12, 2019

Good Morning, Chairman Louser and members of the Commerce Committee. I am Daphne Clark, Protection Team Leader for Upper Missouri District Health Unit. Our agency provides septic system regulations in Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties.

As a local public health unit which has partially adopted the model septic code developed by local public health, UMDHU wanted to make you aware that while a model code and uniformity would be simple there are enough regional differences that there needs to remain room for variations that meet local needs. The following are areas the UMDHU local board of health policy deviated from the model code developed.

There are predominately heavier clay loam soils in Northwestern ND so; UMDHU Board of Health must maintain a one acre minimum for our requirement for a septic system. This helps ensure that there will be space available in the future for replacement of the septic system. It is also because of our heavier soils seepage bed systems in our coverage area are not allowed.

Due to the fluctuation in our economy in Western ND we do not encourage centralized systems because people could be responsible for an expensive system and its maintenance because the project fell short of occupancy. Developed centralized systems go through the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality in the UMDHU region. Also due to our housing shortage, UMDHU currently allows for the sizing of a one bedroom house.

Sincerely,

Daphne Clark, EPH, REHS
Protection Team Leader
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