VERMILION COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

VERMILION COUNTY
"Ye are the salt of the earth"
ESTABLISHED
JANUARY 15, 1825
ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE GOVERNING
PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL
AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL
IN VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to protect, promote and preserve the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the establishment and enforcement of a minimum code of standards for design, construction, materials, operation and maintenance of private sewage disposal systems, for the transportation and disposal of waste therefrom and for private sewage disposal servicing equipment.

SECTION II: DEFINITIONS

2.1 Alteration: Altering a private sewage disposal system shall mean any change in the design or size of an existing system or any increase in the load placed on the system due to building additions or increases in residential capacity of the building served or the addition of a mobile home to the original private sewage disposal system.

2.2 Construction Permit: A written permit issued by the Health Department permitting installation, construction or alteration of a private sewage disposal system.

2.3 Domestic Sewage: Waste water derived principally from dwellings, business or office buildings, institutions, food service establishments and similar facilities.

2.4 Health Administrator: The Administrator of the Vermilion County Health Department or his authorized representative.

2.5 Health Department: The Vermilion County Health Department.
2.6 Person: Any individual, group of individuals, association, trust, partnership, corporation, person doing business under an assumed name, the State of Illinois or any department thereof, or any other entity.

2.7 Private Sewage Disposal System Installation Contractor: Any person constructing, repairing, installing, modifying, or maintaining private sewage disposal systems.

2.8 Private Sewage Disposal System Pumping Contractor: Any person who cleans or pumps waste from a private sewage disposal system or hauls or disposes of waste removed therefrom.

2.9 Private Sewage Disposal System: Any sewage handling or treatment facility with or without ground discharge which receives domestic sewage from 15 individuals or less or a population equivalent to 1500 gallons or less per day.

2.10 Variance: Variance shall mean any modification of the Vermilion County Private Sewage Disposal Rules and Regulations.

SECTION III: REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN OF PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, DISPOSAL OF WASTE AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM SERVICING EQUIPMENT

3.1 For the purpose of this ordinance, the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and Code and any subsequent amendments or revisions thereto, established and adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the authority included in the Private Sewage Disposal Act and administrative hearing practices pertaining to said code are hereby adopted as the “Rules and Regulations” governing private disposal in Vermilion County, Illinois.
3.2 Variances: If circumstances exist which make compliance with the requirements established by the Vermilion County Private Sewage Disposal Ordinance and its "Rules and Regulations" impossible, anyone may request the Vermilion County Health Department to review a proposal for modification of the requirements. Such variance requests shall be made in writing and be accompanied by a plan drawn to scale and shall include pertinent data to support the request.

SECTION IV: LICENSING

4.1 All private sewage disposal systems within the limits of Vermilion County, Illinois shall be installed, modified or serviced by a licensed private sewage disposal system installation contractor; and all such systems shall be pumped, cleaned and the contents disposed of by a licensed private sewage disposal pumping contractor. A homeowner may install and/or service a private sewage disposal system which services his own personal single family residence.

4.2 The Vermilion County Health Department shall issue a private sewage disposal system installation contractor’s license or a private sewage disposal system pumping contractor’s license to persons applying for such a license who have passed the written examination given by the Illinois Department of Public Health for the license desired and who pay the Vermilion County Health Department annual license fee. The Vermilion County Health Department may require the person applying for a license to satisfactorily complete a written examination on the Vermilion County Health Department’s Ordinance Governing Private Sewage Disposal before a license will be issued or reissued.
4.3 The Vermilion County Private Sewage Contractor’s License shall be effective January 1 to December 31 of each year at a fee established by the Board of Health with the approval of the Vermilion County Board.

4.4 The Vermilion County Private Sewage Disposal System Installation Contractor’s License and the Vermilion County Private Sewage Disposal System Pumping Contractor’s License may be suspended under the following circumstances:

4.4.1 Repeated failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations under this ordinance.

4.4.2 Repeated violation of Section 5.7 and 5.8 of this ordinance.

4.4.3 Violation of Section 5.9 of this ordinance.

4.4.4 Repeated violations of minimum standards for the construction of private sewage disposal systems as established by the Illinois Department of Public Health in the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and Code.

4.5 The contractor must be notified in writing of the suspension and reasons for such suspension. The contractor may within 10 days request and shall be granted upon request a hearing within 30 days before the Board of Health. If after the hearing the Board concurs with the suspension, the Health Administrator shall, within five days, notify the Illinois Department of Public Health of the suspension.
SECTION V: CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

5.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or alter a private sewage disposal system within Vermilion County unless he holds a valid construction permit issued in the name of the person on whose property the construction or alteration is to be made. The permit shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months. Thereafter, a new permit will have to be obtained by the property owner.

5.2 The fee for the construction permit and the fee for the reissuance of a construction permit will be established by the Board of Health with the approval of the Vermilion County Board.

5.3 All applications for permits will be submitted by property owner or his agent on forms provided by the Health Department who will issue the permit upon compliance by the applicant with provisions of this ordinance and any Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder.

5.4 All applications for permits shall include the following:

5.4.1 Name and address of applicant.

5.4.2 Complete directions to property where system is to be installed.

5.4.3 Complete plans of proposed disposal system, including the distance from property lines and building and any water supply well on that or adjacent property within the minimum distance allowable from the purposed sewage disposal system and, if necessary, substantiating data attesting to its compliance with the
minimum standards of this ordinance and its rules and regulations.

5.4.4 Such further information as may be required by the Department to substantiate that proposed construction or alteration complies with the Rules and Regulations adopted under this ordinance.

5.5 Any person whose application for a permit under this ordinance has been denied may request and shall be granted an informal hearing on the matter before the Health Administrator within 30 days after receipt of the request.

5.6 After a construction permit has been issued, it shall be unlawful for any person to alter the design or construction of the sewage system for which the permit was obtained without the approval of the Health Department.

5.7 Any private sewage disposal system installed for any purpose shall not be covered or placed in operation until the installation has been inspected and written approval for said system has been issued by the Health Department.

5.8 It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or willfully make any false statement or provide false information on applications for permits or on plans submitted under Section 5.4 or 5.5 of this ordinance.

5.9 No private sewage disposal system shall be altered by increasing the load on the system unless the original designed load is adequate to handle the increase or the size of the system is increased to handle the proposed increase in the design load.
5.10 Any person licensed by the Vermilion County Health Department as a private sewage disposal system installation contractor shall use a leveling instrument or some other type of leveling device, approved by the Vermilion County Health Department, to ensure that leaching lines/trenches and sand filter distribution lines are level. The required leveling instrument shall also be used to ensure that collection lines and bottom grade on sand filter is correct.

SECTION VI: INSPECTIONS

6.1 The Health Department is hereby authorized and directed to make such inspections as are necessary to determine satisfactory compliance with this ordinance and the Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder.

6.2 It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of a property to give the Health Administrator free access to the property at reasonable times for the purpose of making such inspections as are necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this ordinance and Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder.

6.3 Standard inspections will include a check of the following:

6.3.1 The accuracy of information supplied by the property owner on the application for the permit.

6.3.2 The amount of square feet in the system.

6.3.3 Proper location of system in regard to water supplies, property lines and buildings.

6.3.4 Proper design and layout of the system.
6.3.5 All components of a private sewage disposal system will be inspected to determine if they were installed level or, where necessary, with the proper amount of slope.

6.3.6 At the time of the final inspection, the installation contractor will sign a form stating that he has complied with the Vermilion County Health Department's Sewage Ordinance Rules and Regulations.

SECTION VII: UNSANITARY CONDITIONS

7.1 No person shall discharge or permit to be discharged, any raw or inadequately treated domestic sewage or waste water to the surface of the ground or into any street, alley, road or highway right-of-way, railroad right-of-way, storm drain, drainage ditch, watercourse, or any other body of water.

7.2 No person shall discharge or permit to be discharged any raw or inadequately treated domestic sewage or waste water to any abandoned water supply, well, spring or cistern or into any natural or man-made cave, tunnel or mine.

7.3 There shall be no escape of offensive odors from any private sewage disposal system.

7.4 Sludge removed from septic tanks by a licensed pumping contractor may be applied to farm ground not used to grow crops that may be eaten raw. Such application must be done in such a manner as to prevent the runoff of any material to watercourses and to prevent the development of any nuisance condition. Farm ground used for this purpose shall be plowed regularly to
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minimum standards of this ordinance and its rules and regulations.

5.4.4 Such further information as may be required by the Department to substantiate that proposed construction or alteration complies with the Rules and Regulations adopted under this ordinance.

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SECTION VI: INSPECTIONS

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6.2 It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of a property to give the Health Administrator free access to the property at reasonable times for the purpose of making such inspections as are necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this ordinance and Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder.

6.3 Standard inspections will include a check of the following:

   6.3.1 The accuracy of information supplied by the property owner on the application for the permit.

   6.3.2 The amount of square feet in the system.

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7.2 No person shall discharge or permit to be discharged any raw or inadequately treated domestic sewage or waste water to any abandoned water supply, well, spring or cistern or into any natural or man-made cave, tunnel or mine.

7.3 There shall be no escape of offensive odors from any private sewage disposal system.

7.4 Sludge removed from septic tanks by a licensed pumping contractor may be applied to farm ground not used to grow crops that may be eaten raw. Such application must be done in such a manner as to prevent the runoff of any material to watercourses and to prevent the development of any nuisance condition. Farm ground used for this purpose shall be plowed regularly to
prevent ponding of sludge and no sludge shall be applied to ground in flood planes or ground with a slope of greater than 5%.

SECTION VIII: PENALTIES

8.1 Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance, or any provision of any Rules and Regulations adopted under this ordinance, shall upon conviction, be guilty of a Petty Offense with a fine of not less than $50.00 nor more than $500.00. Each day's failure to comply constitutes a separate offense.

SECTION IX: CONFLICT OF ORDINANCES, EFFECT OR PARTIAL INVALIDITY

9.1 In any case where a provision of this ordinance is found to be in conflict with a provision of any zoning, building, fire, safety, or health ordinance, the provision which, in the judgment of the Health Administrator, establishes the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people shall prevail. In any case where a provision of this ordinance is found to be in conflict with a provision of any other ordinance or code existing on the effective date of this ordinance which establishes a lower standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people, the provisions of those ordinances or codes are hereby declared to be repealed to the extent that they may be found in conflict with this ordinance.

9.2 If section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance which shall remain in full force
and effect; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

9.3 An ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance Governing Private Sewage Disposal". adopted November 13, 1984, by the Vermilion County Board is hereby modified by the changes reflected herein. All other sections not otherwise modified or deleted remain in full force and effect as previously adopted.

SECTION X: EFFECTIVE DATE

10.1 This ordinance shall be effective on and after the 12th day of August, 1986.