



Fact Sheet:

Water Infrastructure Assessment for Manufactured Home Communities (MHCs)

Project Overview

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has received EPA grant funding and State Revolving Fund money to assess the conditions of wastewater and drinking water infrastructure in Delaware's manufactured home communities (MHCs). The goal of the DNREC Division of Water project is to identify MHCs that may need a more detailed evaluation and/or assistance in developing solutions to improve sanitary conditions.

Background info:

- Delaware has over 170 MHCs – a number of which may have outdated or failing infrastructure.
- Because some of these systems may predate State permitting requirements, their condition and locations are not well-documented.
- The infrastructure assessment, along with open communication among tenants, MHC owners and DNREC, will help to identify potential steps to resolve existing issues and improve conditions in these MHCs.
- The project is focused on needed improvements in Delaware's MHCs and not on regulatory enforcement, though DNREC will seek compliance as needed.
- DNREC has contracted with Verdantas, an environmental consulting firm, to conduct the water infrastructure assessment of Delaware MHCs.

Why This Work is Important

This project addresses issues in MHCs where infrastructure may have degraded over time for a variety of reasons. Failing or outdated systems can harm people's health and are detrimental to the environment. By assessing these systems, engaging with owners, operators, and tenants, estimating the costs for improvements, and identifying potential funding sources for needed repairs, the DNREC project aims to create safer and healthier communities. The ultimate goal is to enhance living conditions for MHC residents and safeguard Delaware's water resources for future generations.

DNREC's Water Infrastructure Plan

The four-step plan focuses on assessing conditions and, where needed, on identifying potential actions for improving water systems in underserved communities:

Step 1: Gather Information

- Learn about as many MHCs and their water infrastructure as possible using public records.
- Organize the data by filling out checklists. Information being collected includes:
 - ◇ Location and size of community
 - ◇ Type, size and age of MHCs' water systems
- Compile systems data and other environmental observations
- Visit MHCs to gather additional information on wastewater and water systems

Step 2: Set Priorities

- Determine the level of benefit in each community

Step 3: Connect with MHCs

- Share information with owners, operators and tenants about the conditions of their water infrastructure.

Step 4: Address Problems

- Identify available technical and financial resources to assist priority MHCs that have been identified through the DNREC assessment.
- Plan short- and long-term solutions in collaboration with MHC owners and tenants.

What MHC Tenants, Operators and Owners Can Expect

- Onsite contact by DNREC representatives visiting MHCs statewide
- DNREC collecting information about manufactured home communities' water infrastructure
- Follow-up contacts from DNREC to share information and discuss MHC concerns

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