

7/27/12

Dear Mr. Ruzs,

Here is one further thought in relation to the discussion concerning The Homestead Resort sewage system. Because the DEQ has so many responsibilities and limited resources, it's understandable that you are unable to make as many compliance checks as would be desirable; indeed, many years it has not been possible to observe the system while it was operating at all. Hence, it falls upon NPS and concerned citizens to fill that role.

Unfortunately, trying to observe the system tends to be an inefficient, time-consuming matter. As noted previously, many of the NPS attempts to do so turned out to be wasted outings, as the system was not running because the hay was drying, the system was down for maintenance, or other unknown reasons. Because the NPS rangers, like your DEQ staff, have numerous important responsibilities (particularly during the summer season), they can only make a limited number of trips to the spray fields each year.

It would be very helpful if you would require the operator to make a quick phone call to NPS Dispatch to advise them when the system is being turned on and off. That would result in much more efficient use of time and a more effective monitoring program.

Better yet would be to have him post these activities on a web site. That way, in addition to the NPS rangers, citizens could make observations without a lot of wasted trips. This would also be useful for hunters, hikers, and others who might like to use surrounding park lands without having to worry about possible spray drift.

Thanks for considering these thoughts.

Sincerely,

Tom Van Zoeren