

**SECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**POLICY #2017-OSTS-Holding Tank Exemption**

**POLICY:** Lake Region District Health Unit (LRDHU) has promulgated **LRDHU Regulation #2016-OSTS**, governing the installation of On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems (OSTS). Property owners may be allowed a holding tank exemption to LRDHU Regulation #2016-OSTS, if the following approved protocols and procedures are followed to protect public health and the environment, and the Approving Authority approves the holding tank to be permitted.

**PROTOCOL:**

1. A holding tank for full time use in new construction is prohibited where a property can accommodate an onsite sewage treatment system with a soil treatment area.
2. A holding tank is only allowed for use of on existing property as a means to replace a failing system where no other option, as determined by the Approving Authority, can be done.
  - a) A holding tank may be installed where a new building being installed is 400 square feet in size or less for the inside livable area.
  - b) A holding tank may be allowed for commercial buildings and shops without bedrooms/livable space.
  - c) A holding tank may be installed if a lot has “disturbed” or probable disturbed soil.
  - d) A holding tank may be installed if a lot has concerns of a high water table, not allowing installation of a drainfield or mound system.
  - e) A holding tanks may be installed if a lot is less than 40,000 square feet or not large enough for a drainfield.
  - f) A holding tank may be installed if elevation requirements, as stated in the Regulations are able to be met.
  - g) A holding tank (dump station) shall be installed for newly developed campground areas, if the campground area cannot accommodate a collection or municipal treatment system.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The application, design, and installation procedure shall be followed, as with any other septic application, according to LRDHU Regulation #2016-OSTS.
  - a) Additional bedrooms or additions to the building shall not be allowed.
  - b) For building with livable areas: A minimum of 1500 gallon tank capacity or sized larger if additional water using devices are provided other than a toilet, sink, and a shower (e.g. washing machine).
  - c) All normal setbacks must be provided for installing a holding tank (well, lot lines, lake, etc.).
  - d) The tank shall be installed such that the manhole access covers are all brought to at least six inches above ground level surface.
  - e) Holding tanks shall have an electrical warning system installed, hard wired in, and documentation provided to LRDHU. The alarm shall be installed before the building is occupied.
  - f) A contract with a septic pumper shall be required and filed with LRDHU holding tanks sites.