

4. Septic Practices

Impervious acre restoration credits for septic pumping, denitrification, and connections to a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) can use the number of systems improved as the unit measure. Table 15 provides EIA_f for these septic practices. Septic pumping is an annual practice. The EIA credit for septic pumping is based on the annual number of systems pumped averaged over the span of the 5 year permit term. Septic connection to an Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) WWTP assumes a Best Available Technology (BAT) baseline of 50% nitrogen removal according to the Phase 6 Model.

For septic pumping credits, an MS4 jurisdiction can propose a comprehensive program for the Department's approval that includes septic system maintenance education and outreach, and homeowner registration and participation. Under this approach, each registered homeowner may be credited for every year of the permit term, without an annual pump-out, if the septic system is well maintained. The Department's approval is contingent upon the MS4 jurisdiction's septic maintenance program being able to ensure that registered homeowners pump out their septic tanks when the storage chambers reach capacity (i.e., bottom of the scum layer is within 6 inches of the bottom of the outlet, or top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet), and the septic systems are inspected annually for maintenance verification.

Table 15. Load Reductions and EIA_f for Alternative Septic BMPs

BMP	Notes	Pollutant Removal Efficiency (%) ¹			EIA _f per System
		TN	TP	TSS	
Septic Pumping	Pumping system is maintained and verified for annual credit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Septic Denitrification	Permanent credit for installing enhanced septic denitrification	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Septic Connection	Permanent credit for converting a septic system to a WWTP connection	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23
Note: ¹ Actual load reductions must be reported through the local health department. Septic system credits only apply to impervious acre restoration requirements.					