Dear Homeowner,

You are receiving this letter because your home is supported by a Nonstandard septic system (NSS). At first glance, your sewage system hardly seems like something to get excited about. However, we feel the more you understand the operation and maintenance of your system, the more you will appreciate the value of your investment. Nonstandard septic systems require more maintenance and inspections than conventional septic systems because of their more complex designs. Many NSSs are located on difficult sites or in environmentally sensitive areas.

The County Environmental Health will conduct periodic inspections of your system at frequencies specified in your Operating Permit. For many homeowners, an inspection will be required once a year during the first two years of operation and in 1–3 year increments thereafter. The frequency of inspections will be dependent on the complexity of the system, the degree of site constraints, and your performance in maintaining the system. See enclosed inspection scheduling form for details to schedule an appointment.

As the homeowner, it is important for you to play an active role in protecting your family’s health and your investment by overseeing the maintenance of your NSS. Environmental Health will furnish you with data sheets to record important information which you will collect by periodically inspecting your NSS. In addition to routine maintenance and monitoring it may also be necessary for you to hire a qualified person to analyze and diagnose problems or correct deficiencies in the system should they occur. Enclosed is a list of local maintenance providers for your convenience. Feel free to hire a qualified provider not included on the list.

We hope that you will see the value of maintaining your system properly, which ultimately will protect your family and your investment. We look forward to working with you…

Sincerely,

Mendocino County Environmental Health