



## Public Health

Water Quality Program

July, 2011

Dear Homeowner:

You may have heard from us in the past about the SepticSmart program and regulations aimed at improving the health of septic systems and the water in our county by ensuring that all onsite wastewater systems (OWS, or septic systems) are approved.

According to our current records, your septic system has not yet received final approval from Boulder County Public Health (BCPH). We are especially concerned because your property is located in an area at high risk for negative impacts to waterways due to:

- **The number of unapproved systems in the area.** Because unapproved septic systems have not been reviewed by public health professionals, there is no guarantee they were constructed to accepted standards and that they are not negatively impacting water quality.
- **The density and number of systems in the area.** The age, distance to groundwater and drinking water sources, soil, slope, and distance to surface water are all risk factors that make water quality in the your area at greater risk from septic systems. We're concerned that contaminants from septic systems may enter shallow drinking water wells and compromise drinking water supplies.

**Because of these factors, we are now requesting that your property's septic system receive final approval by December 31, 2016.**

As life continues in your current home, or if you consider expanding, buying, or selling your house, please consider the health of your septic system. An approved septic system will help to protect your family, friends, and neighbors by protecting the drinking water supply.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience to begin the process for getting a *Major Repair* permit. You have plenty of time between now and 2016 to take the necessary steps to get your OWS approved and working well in order to protect the community. You may also visit our website at [www.SepticSmart.org](http://www.SepticSmart.org) for information about the repair or verification process for systems that have not received final approval.

We understand you may have concerns about this process. If you have additional questions about this regulation, any other aspect of the SepticSmart program, or if you need assistance determining how to get final approval for your system, please contact me at 303-441-1149 or [cwallis@bouldercounty.org](mailto:cwallis@bouldercounty.org)

Sincerely,

Christopher Wallis  
Environmental Health Specialist

