When to Conduct a Hydraulic Load Test?

A hydraulic load test is recommended, but not limited, for the following reasons:

* 1. Structure has been vacant for more than seven days.
* 2. The liquid level in an absorption system is at an elevation that is not deemed unsatisfactory but is at a high enough level to raise concerns (levels set by PSMA standards).
* 3. Signs of previous unsatisfactory system performance indicating possible problems.
* 4. New gray water sources directed to the system within the last 30 days.
* 5. Soil fracturing activity within the last 30 days.
* 6. Increase in projected water flow from the structure, i.e. a home currently occupied by one person and the projected occupancy will be four people.

* An HLT is required by PSMA in all cases when these conditions occur.

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Hydraulic Load Tests

What are they, why and when are they required?

For Additional Information Contact:

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Type of Systems

Most systems installed since 1970 in PA have been designed to handle a predetermined (peak) amount of liquid per day. This peak loading rate is set by regulations, published and regulated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The amount of liquid that is used in the HLT is determined from these regulations.

The HLT can be performed on all types of absorption systems. The type of system that the test is to be performed on will dictate the actual testing procedure.

When an HLT is conducted, no liquid may enter the absorption area other than the clean liquid added by the inspector. This means that the wastewater in the structure can not be used or if a treatment tank precedes the absorption area, it must be emptied to prevent discharge beyond the tank.

Why Conduct an HDL?

The main purpose in conducting a hydraulic load test is to use the results of the test to determine the systems absorption potential.

There are various reasons to conduct an HLT. One reason to conduct this test is because the absorption system has been dormant or unused for more than a week.

When a system has not been used for a period of time, usually one week or more, an inspector can not observe the system under normal operating conditions. The HLT will put the system under simulated load conditions and will allow the inspector to determine the system's absorption potential.

The information from this test tells the buyer whether the absorption system is in Satisfactory condition or if it is unsatisfactory.