

July 26, 2012

Dear Potato Lake Property Owner:

As a part of the comprehensive water quality planning project being completed for Potato Lake, the Potato Lake Association is sponsoring, and SEH administering a volunteer septic system dye survey. The objective of the septic dye survey is to approximate the contributions of septic leachate entering Potato Lake and determine areas where major failures are occurring. The intent is not to identify and penalize problems with specific septic systems, but rather to provide a starting place to encourage landowners to make septic system improvements if needed. Potato Lake property owner participation is entirely voluntary.

If you agree to participate, a Tester will visit your home on a designated date to meet with you and explain the process. The Tester will then flush the dye through your home's main water drains. After 1 hr, the tester will walk your shoreline looking for the presence or absence of the dye reaching the lake or appearing somewhere on your property. During the 1 hour wait time, the tester will walk your property with you to try and identify and sketch the layout of your septic system. A return visit will be scheduled for 24 hours (1 day) and 72 hours (3 days) later during which the lake and your property will again be checked for the presence of dye. Following the third visit, it becomes the responsibility of the property owner to check over the next two to three days for any signs of dye and report any such findings to the Tester. A brief letter of the results will be sent to participants and all results will be summarized.

The dye survey can be administered regardless of the type of septic system you have, even a holding tank. Holding tanks can leak, providing an opportunity for septic leachate to enter the lake.

Sincerely,

Harley Wells  
President, Potato Lake Association