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CERTIFIED GEOLOGIST/LICENSED SITE EVALUA

Date: September 4, 2024

To: Andrea Jacobs
64 Harding Road
Brunswick, ME 04011

RE: Septic system inspection

Date of Inspection: August 29, 2024

Method of Inspection:

Hand shovel and soil auger probes into the sidewall of the system for visual inspection

Background information:

Soapy water was observed by the Town of Brunswick road crew to surface in the front yard of the home at 64 Harding Road during routine road work. An on-site consultation became necessary to determine the cause and extent of the problem.

A design of the system is available and was reviewed. The system dates to 1988 and was designed by Thomas Paiement. It is a plastic chamber disposal area sized for a three-bedroom home on Profile 9 soils. There are 27 High-Capacity chambers in four terraced rows. The system was found to be installed as designed. The sand fill placed beneath and beside the chambers is medium to coarse grained sand.

There were no signs of surfacing wastewater or lush grass growth above the chambers. There are no reports of wastewater backing into the house.

An inspection hole dug into the uppermost chamber row revealed wastewater at the top of the chambers. This indicates the first row of chambers is full of water and the designed serial distribution of the system is taking place.

An inspection hole into the sidewall of the lowest chamber row revealed a dry row of chambers, with water only appearing at the base of the chambers. An incipient bio-mat in the sand fill below the chambers was noted. This indicates the system is performing as designed and remains functioning properly.

To determine the cause of the observed surfacing of soapy water by the Town crew, the interior plumbing of the home was inspected. Sinks, toilets and bath fixtures are plumbed to the house sewer and exit the rear of the foundation wall to the 1000-gallon septic tank, located in the rear yard.

However, the laundry is plumbed to piping that exits the basement floor to some unknown gray water disposal area. The soapy water discharge is most likely coming from this disposal feature. This plumbing is an original feature of the house and pre-dates Paiement's Replacement System from 1988. The laundry discharge should be re-plumbed to the existing sewer and disposed into the chamber system.

Conclusions:

The system serving 64 Harding Road is a modern, permitted system that was installed correctly and remains functioning properly. There is capacity in the system for continued use. The laundry discharge can be added to the basement sewer, where it will receive treatment in the tank and proper disposal in the soil absorption system.

The septic tank should be pumped and cleaned once every five years. At the next cleaning, the outlet baffle of the septic tank should be checked for proper functioning and fixed if needed.

Mark Cenci, LSE