

**BARTON HILLS VILLAGE
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

ORDINANCE NO. 29

[An ordinance to regulate geothermal systems]

Barton Hills Village ordains:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. An open loop geothermal system can deplete and pollute the Village's groundwater. A closed loop geothermal system can pollute the Village's ground water if not properly constructed or maintained. These regulations are for the purpose of protecting the quality and quantity of the Village's groundwater from these potential dangers.

Section 2. Definitions.

- a. Geothermal System: A geothermal system pumps liquid from the ground to equipment which heats and cools buildings.
- b. Closed Loop Geothermal System: A closed loop geothermal system uses pipes containing a heat transfer liquid. The closed loop is designed and constructed so that the liquid does not come in contact with groundwater.
- c. Open Loop Geothermal System: An open loop geothermal system pumps groundwater to the heating and cooling equipment. The groundwater is then discharged into the ground, to the ground surface or to a body of water.

Section 3. Open Loop Geothermal System Prohibited: No person shall install or maintain an open loop geothermal system in the Village.

Section 4. Closed Loop Geothermal System Permitted: A person may install and operate a closed loop geothermal system only in accordance with the requirements of this section.

- a. A permit must be approved by the County of Washtenaw.
- b. A permit must be approved by the Village Board of Trustees upon a finding that the system complies with this section.
- c. The systems shall be tested hydrostatically at one and one half times the maximum system design pressure, but not less than 100 psi. The duration of each test shall be not less than 15 minutes. All geothermal systems must be pressure checked to the original standard by a licensed geothermal contractor, every three (3) years from the certification system date. Results from the test shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees. No person shall operate a system if a test reveals that it is likely to leak the heat transfer liquid.

Section 5. Violations: Installing or operating a geothermal system not in compliance with this ordinance is a civil infraction punishable by a civil fine of up to \$5000. Each day of operation in violation of this ordinance is a separate offence.

Date Adopted: April 13, 2009

Date Published: April 17, 2009

Effective Date: April 18, 2009

Forrest Butterwick, Clerk

Adele P. Laporte, President