



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

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**PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

Sherri McDonald, RN, MPA,
Director
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH
Health Officer

Date: January 4, 2010
To: Designers, Installers and Interested Parties
From: Steven W. Petersen, R.S.
Program Manager *SWP*
Subject: Thurston County Environmental Health Updates

This memorandum is being sent out to sewage system designers, installers and other interested parties to let folks know of updates that are occurring within Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, Environmental Health Division.

- ▶ The entire Public Health and Social Services Department has received new telephone numbers. If you dial one of our existing phone numbers, a message indicates that the number no longer exists and informs you of the new number. Our general telephone numbers can be found on our website:
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/global/contopics.html#eh>
- ▶ A new version of Thurston County's Sanitary Codes, Article I and IV, will go into effect on January 1, 2010. Please be sure to review the new regulations, as they will apply to sewage system permit applications submitted after January 1, 2010. The new regulations can be found on our website: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm/index.html>

Some of the major changes to the sanitary code include:
Mandatory submission of pumper reports and associated fees
Inspections of septic systems when property sells
Risers and access ports at or above finished grade

- ▶ The Department is also implementing some of the current Recommended Standard and Guidance Documents published by the Washington State Department of Health, as they are written, with few exceptions. The documents include July 2009 Pressure Distribution, July 2009 Mound, July 2009 Sand Lined Trench and July 2007 Intermittent Sand Filter System.

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Several of the guidelines require the sewage system designer to develop and submit a "user's manual" for the sewage system. The Department will continue to fulfill this responsibility as we have in the past, through our operational certificate program.

Mound reserve areas will still need to be staked for our field evaluations.

Please be sure to review the new guidance documents listed on the previous page, as they will apply to sewage system permit applications submitted after **February 1, 2010**. The previous policies will be cancelled as of February 1st. The new documents can be found on the Washington State Department of Health website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WW/pubs-ww-topic.htm#RS&Gs>. I have included with this memo a new Sand Lined Trench policy.

- ▶ Washington State Department of Health has adopted new sewage tank rules. Chapter 246-272C WAC, On-site Sewage System (OSS) Tanks is adopted, final, and became effective December 19, 2009. You may find the document on their website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WW/tanks/tanks-rap.htm>
- ▶ Listed below are various types of permit application scenarios and the associated fees that will be due for each at the time of submittal. This structure will take effect on January 1, 2010.

Proposal

Sand Filter Rebuild or
Mound Rebuild

Applicable Fees

Application fee
Installation Permit fee
Operation & maintenance education fee
Operational Certificate renewal fee*

Sand Filter Bypass

Application fee
Operational Certificate renewal fee*

Change in Treatment Unit
(example: sand filter to
ATU or adding treatment unit
to an existing system)

Application fee
Installation Permit fee
Operation and maintenance education fee
Operational Certificate renewal fee*

Change in disinfection method
(example: chlorination to ultraviolet)

Application fee
Operational Certificate renewal fee*

*If the existing Operational Certificate is not expired, or if the property is in the Henderson Watershed Protection District, the Operational Certificate renewal fee will not be needed.

Thank you for your past and continual cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 867-2627.