



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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District Three

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Onsite Sewage System Designers and Installers
FROM: Steven Davies, R.S.
DATE: February 4, 2004
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous items

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

This memorandum is intended to inform you of Thurston County Environmental Health requirements regarding several issues. Our intent is to make these requirements clear to avoid delays in accepting as-builts, delays in septic system design approval, and delays in final building occupancy inspections. This memorandum is intended to state our requirements regardless of perceptions of "what was done in the past".

The items we wish to clarify are as follows:

1) **SETBACK FROM WATERLINES TO ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM COMPONENTS:**

There is a 10-foot setback from all pressurized waterlines to any onsite sewage system component. We understand the Uniform Plumbing Code and other sources allow other configurations in some situations. However, WAC 246-272 and *Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code* govern how we review projects with respect to this issue. It is frustrating for all parties when we get to the final stage in a project (as-built acceptance and final building inspection stage) and find acceptance of the as-built is not possible due to setback issues with waterlines. Examples of these setback issues occur when as-builts are submitted showing waterlines over the tops of tanks, too close to the drainfield, stubbed out of the foundation right next to the building sewer, or running parallel with and in the same trench as the sewage transport line. A safe approach to this problem is to install the waterline (and all other components) per the approved design. However, sometimes that is not possible. IN ALL CASES, where the waterline will be less than 10 feet from ANY septic system component, a waiver request must be submitted to this office for review. This includes perpendicular transport line/waterline crossings. Please note that we will not grant a waiver request if there is another, reasonable, way to install the waterline (or sewage system



component) and meet the 10-foot setback. When planning your projects, please keep this in mind.

- 2) Waterlines, as they are installed, are required to be shown on as-builts. This is a new requirement.
- 3) When showing a building envelope with tanks and tightlines inside it, a detail is required showing typical required setbacks to the foundation.
- 4) Beginning March 1, 2004, all sites must be marked at the point of entry to the drainfield site with a sign. The sign must have the applicants name on it as it appears on the application for septic system permit. Adequate directions to the sign are required, and if the proposed system is not obvious from where the sign is, a flagged trail to the site is required.
- 5) Dose timers: Thurston County requires measured drawdown in the pump chamber per dose cycle, timer settings (when timers are used) for pump run time and pump time off, and residual head pressure on the as-built. At this time, installers should refer to Section 2.2.3 of the *Recommended Standards & Guidance for Pressure Distribution*. As that section indicates, the installer is responsible for running all required tests, and in the case of timers, the tests must be run AFTER the timer is installed. The information relayed to the designer for the as-built must be information generated after testing the system in the field.
- 6) Enclosed is a copy of the scheduled classes offered by the *Washington State Environmental Health Association* and *Alternatives Northwest*. There are a number of very good classes offered. If you are interested in finding out what the state (D.O.L.) expects from us, refer to class number 15. Much important information will be covered in that class, and we recommend attending it.