

Thurston County  
Permitting System Policies & Procedures


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Policy Number: ONST.01.POL.820

Title: Common Drainfield Areas

Related:

Approved:   
Environmental Health Division Director

Date: February 26, 2001

Cancels: New

RCW/Code: WAC 246-272, Article III  
Article IV

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*This policy defines how common drainfield areas will be reviewed, permitted, and what conditions will be placed on the approval..*

- 1. Common drainfield areas are areas where individual or community drainfields are located within 30 feet of one another.**
- 2. A hydrogeological report shall be required where wastewater flows are in excess of 1200 gallons/day in a common area.**

The hydrogeological report shall examine both nitrate loading and groundwater mounding. The groundwater mounding issue may be waived on a case by case basis. (I.E. if the soils were highly permeable and more than five feet of vertical separation existed, groundwater mounding would not be a significant issue).

- 3. Prior to final plat approval, the department may require the sewage system transport lines and drainfield be installed if the distances between the drainfields create access and construction problems.**

Except: If community sewage systems are proposed, the entire system shall be installed or bonded for as stipulated in Section 21.5 of Article IV.

- 4. Easements for individual drainfields and reserve areas shall be recorded prior to final plat approval.**

The easements shall be large enough to provide an area large enough for access to, and construction and repair of the drainfield and reserve area.

**5. Sewage system components located on individual lots, such as septic tanks and pump chambers and sandfilters, can be installed when the individual lot is developed.**

A Septic Tank Placement Permit shall be required prior to installing the septic tank and pump chamber. If a sandfilter or other treatment unit is required, the applicant shall also submit a design review fee and sandfilter specifications from a designer. The sandfilter shall be reviewed in accordance with the regulations in place at the time of Septic Tank Placement Permit Application unless the application is submitted five (5) years after the date of final plat approval as noted in section 4.2 of Article IV. Then the components must be reviewed under the standards in place at the time the Septic Tanks Application Permit submitted.

**6. The developer shall be required to have third party operation and maintenance agreements in place when community sewage systems are proposed to service a subdivision as per policy #ONST.97.POL.605.**