



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Cathy Wolfe
District One
Diane Oberquell
District Two
Robert N. Macleod
District Three

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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

DATE: February 11, 2003
TO: On-site sewage system installers & designers
FROM: Steven Davies, R.S. *SD*
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous information & requirements

This memorandum is intended to relay some general information to on-site sewage system designers and installers, and to remind designers and installers of some requirements. The only change to current county requirements is listed under #3, below. Should you have any questions regarding the change or the other information, please contact Steven Petersen at 754-3348.

The items are as follows:

- 1) Designers are required to address, in some way on the design, whether or not there are any wells within 100 feet of proposed drainfields. The issue here is that some designers have told us if they don't say anything on their design, then there are not any wells within 100 feet. This is no longer acceptable. We have had designs submitted without any information on neighboring wells, and we have approved them under the above scenario. Then, we find out there is a well and we have significant problems. There are numerous ways to address this. It is not necessarily required that you know where the well is located. But, you must know that the well on the adjacent property is not within 100 feet of your proposal with enough certainty to place such a statement on your design. You must place the statement on your design. Another approach, which many of you use, is to show the well and the protective radius as it relates to your proposal. This is the preferred method, but when you know the well is many hundreds of feet away, a statement may be the best way to meet this requirement.

The other scenario is when you design a site that will be served by a single family well. If the protective radius falls off the lot you are designing the system on, you are required to locate on-site sewage system components on the lot the radius encroaches on. When the radius encroaches on obviously undeveloped areas, this requirement can be satisfied by researching our files to make sure there is not a



design existing which conflicts with yours. For example, if your well radius encroaches onto the neighbors' lot, you must verify that there are no existing or proposed (on an existing design) on-site sewage system components within the radius.

- 2) When designers submit revisions, please submit 3 complete copies. We will no longer accept partial design revisions.
- 3) The department has determined that to meet minimum requirements, new pump chambers (depending on the volume and condition of the existing pump chamber) and timers are required when doing repairs on (ASTM C-33 or coarse sand) sand based systems. For example, when rebuilding an intermittent sand filter that is dosed from a 300-gallon pump chamber, the system must be retrofitted with a timer and pump chamber meeting today's volume requirements. The effective date for this requirement is March 1, 2003.
- 4) This item is related to floats within a pump chamber. Per our current pressure distribution policy, all items noted as "must" in the RS & G for pressure distribution (or any other RS & G) are required. Section 3.5.2.6 of the pressure distribution RS & G states "float switches must be mounted independent of the pump and transport line so that they can be easily replaced and/or adjusted without removing the pump". Most of you are doing this, but some are not. We have not been "red-tagging" installations for this. However, after March 1, 2003, we will be. So, please, for those of you not putting your pump chambers together this way, please begin doing so prior to March 1st.
- 5) This item relates to the requirement to stake drainfield laterals in the field. The intent here is to clearly demonstrate that what you are proposing is feasible. We have seen flags hanging from tree limbs, very short stakes in the tall grass, a stake at each end of very long trenches that must bend to say with contours, etc. Stakes, in the ground, are required. All bends must be staked. And the stakes must be tall enough to be seen in brushy situations. The intent is clear. Make your staking clear and complete. Finally, please refresh your memory on staking for mounds. **Reserve mounds are now required to be staked** as well as the primary. Mound staking must represent the outline of the fill, not the bed.
- 6) We have been developing a designer packet in an attempt to consolidate local requirements in one place. The packet is now available. The cost is \$15.
- 7) Effective February 3, 2003, we will be changing areas. Steven Davies will work the southwest, Al Schmidt the northwest, Don Moulton & Claire McElreath the northeast, and Brad Sangston will work the southeast.