

 <p>THURSTON COUNTY Washington Est. 1852</p> <p>Public Health & Social Services POLICY</p>	Policy Title DETERMINATION OF HIGHEST SEASONAL WATER TABLE	
	Number ONST.20.POL.841	Effective Date 11/02/2007
	Latest Approval Date 11/02/2007	Approved By Art Starry
	Next Review Date 06/21/2029	
POLICY INTENT		
Purpose	<p>To clarify how the term "highest seasonal water table" will be applied to vertical separation requirements and wet season studies.</p> <p>This policy applies when trying to establish the level of the highest seasonal water table in the area of a proposed onsite sewage system. The intent of this policy is to establish a practical means for addressing the occurrence of water tables that are to or near the surface.</p>	
Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Only <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Impact to Citizens	
Are Office/Department Documents on this subject permitted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the policy clarifies regulations used only by the Environmental Health Division (Article IV and WAC 246-272A).	<input type="checkbox"/> No
POLICY STATEMENT		
<p><u>1. The shallowest predominant redoximorphic characteristics found in the soil test holes shall serve as the indicator of the highest seasonal water table unless a complete winter water study is performed.</u></p> <p>Article IV clearly indicates that the use of soil redoximorphic characteristics or mottling is acceptable for determining the level of water table. This does not preclude someone from requesting that a winter water study be performed. The sanitarian may also use other site and soil information to come to a technically justifiable alternative to using only redoximorphic characteristics as the sole source of determining a seasonal high-water table.</p> <p><u>2. A winter water study with confirmed results shall serve as an alternative to using redoximorphic characteristics as the indicator of the highest seasonal water table.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When a Wet Season Study indicates a seasonal water table at a depth equal to or deeper than the shallowest, predominant redoximorphic features, this water table depth will be used for design purposes. A valid wet season is characterized by normal precipitation levels or is considered a representative year for the purpose of permit review. See ONST.20.POL.843. In order to be considered the "high" water table level for the purpose of permit review; a measurement must be duplicated within four (4) to seven (7) days of the initial measurement. If a high-water level measurement cannot be duplicated between four to seven days later, it will be considered a "spike" in the water table level. The actual water table level for the purpose of permit review will be established according to the highest observed water level. This shall not preclude requirements for drainage improvements on sites where water levels are observed to routinely "spike" to unacceptable levels during heavy rainfall events. Various combinations of geology and topography result in different types of drainage or water table problems. The Wet Season Study process is intended to provide useful information about these issues on a site-by-site basis. Property owners through their consultants are encouraged to conduct additional observations on their study sites. (See ONST.20.POL.840, Section 6). This study will run concurrently with the Health Department review. 		

<p>d. In the event the high-water table level for the purpose of permit review, is measured at less than 18" but greater than 12" and is not considered a "spike" the design proposal shall design to 12" of soil. This pertains to shallow soils located above a restrictive lens.</p> <p>e. In deep sands when the high-water table level for the purpose of permit review, is measured at less than 18" and is considered a "spike" it can be considered as passing.</p> <p>f. Sites with observed water table levels that "spike" routinely to unacceptable levels, such as less than twelve (12) inches, during heavy rainfall events may require additional evaluation or be considered unacceptable. This type of review will be done with the case handler and Environmental Health Technical Lead or Supervisor.</p>		
DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS		
Insert Term	N/A	
RELEVANT LAWS AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION		
County Code State Law State Rule Other Sources	Thurston County Sanitary Code Article IV – On Site Sewage Regulations WAC 246-272A	
Superseded Documents	ONST.07.POL.841 (11/02/2007)	
Supporting Documents	N/A	
Related Documents	ONST.20.POL.840 ONST.20.POL.842 ONST.20.POL.843 ONST.20.PRO.840 ONST.20.GUI.840 ONST.20.GUI.843 Technical Guidelines	
Communication and Implementation Strategy	The Policy Administrator will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinate the review of the Office/Department Documents to ensure consistency • Send signed updated policy to OSS Professionals and Staff through Constant Contact e-mail • Post signed updated policy to Division's OSS Professionals Webpage and on PHSS intranet site. 	
POLICY ADMINISTRATION		
Policy Owner	Steve Petersen/Program Manager, Environmental Health Division	
Contact Person (if different from above)		
Roles and Responsibilities	Laura Blakely	Policy Administrator

REVISION HISTORY		
Effective Date	Approved By	Modifications
06/21/2023	 Art Starry/Environmental Health Director	Update only to ONST.07.POL.841
Xx/xx/xxxx	_____ Name/Title	Indicate what changed
Xx/xx/xxxx	_____ Name/Title	Indicate what changed
Reviewers of the Current Revision	Brad Sangston/Environmental Health Specialist II _____ Name/Title	_____ Name/Title
	Steve Davies/Environmental Health Specialist II _____ Name/Title	_____ Name/Title
	_____ Name/Title	_____ Name/Title

FURTHER INFORMATION

This section is not published on the final PDF document. It is for website purposes only

Keywords for search engine	Highest seasonal water table, winter water study, water table,
----------------------------	--