



THURSTON
COUNTY
Washington
Est. 1852

**Public Health & Social
Services
POLICY**

Policy Title: REPRESENTATIVE RAINY SEASON	
Number ONST.20.GUI.843	Effective Date 11/02/2007
Latest Approval Date 11/02/2007	Approved By Art Starry
Next Review Date 06/21/2029	

POLICY INTENT

Purpose	This protocol applies to wet season studies for on-site sewage systems installed within the top 36 inches of soil.	
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

These criteria shall be used for wet season studies conducted to evaluate sites where on-site sewage systems will be installed in the to 36 inches of soil.

- 1. The rainfall that falls December through March shall be considered.**
- 2. A basic premise is typical soil is approximately 50% pore space and 50% solid. On the average, the volume of micropores is approximately the same as macropores.**
- 3. A basic premise is a typical soil Field Capacity is assumed to be 25% water content in micropores relative to the whole soil volume and 50% solid. This leaves 25% of the total volume as empty macropores.**
- 4. Soil can be considered "wetted" or at field capacity when rainfall has equaled 45% of the permeable soil depth.**

Example: 20" of permeable soil over a restrictive horizon. The site is considered ready for evaluation when the accumulated total of 9" of rainfall is attained.

- 5. Evaluations to determine the soils hydrologic response are done to 6-month or 1-year storm events which are considered typical events. This occurs after the soil profile is determined to have reached Field Capacity.**
 - a. A 6-month storm event is considered 1.79" of rain in a 24-hour period.
 - b. A 1-year storm event is considered 2.3" of rain in a 24-hour period.
- 6. In non-typical events such as prolonged periods of rainfall consideration can be given to what is considered too much rain.**

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Insert Term	N/A
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RELEVANT LAWS AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

