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Number: ONST.12.POL.814

Title: Use of Table VI for Sewage System Repairs and Modifications

Related:

Approved: 

Environmental Health Director

Date: 9/12/12

Cancels: ONST.POL.814.99

RCW/Code: Article IV, Sections 8.1.1.6, 17 &
22, Article I Sec. 20, Appendix B

This policy defines how Environmental Health Staff and Sewage System Designers shall interpret and use Table VI, Article IV, Section 17, in Thurston County when reviewing proposals for on-site sewage system (OSS) repairs and modifications.

For this policy, a modification is defined as an alteration to an OSS that is not the result of new construction, a repair, or an expansion.

1. **Failing OSS cannot be modified.**

Failing OSS must be repaired or replaced as specified in Article IV.

2. **The design of OSS repairs and modifications shall be based on Section 17 of Article IV.**

For sites where available horizontal setbacks to wells and surface water are 100 feet or more, Table VI establishes the minimum allowable vertical separation. Vertical *and* horizontal separations should be maximized as much as site conditions allow.

3. **Repairs and modifications must match or surpass the treatment capabilities of the existing system, or meet the requirements in Table VI, whichever is most stringent.**

Except: An OSS that provides lesser treatment than the existing one can be installed if it meets current requirements for new construction.

4. **Special Standards Within Adopted Geologically Sensitive Areas (GSAs) and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs) Take Precedent over Table VI.**

Repairs and modifications of OSS within GSAs and CARAs with extreme vulnerability shall be designed and reviewed using the vertical and horizontal separation standards for *new construction* for each specific GSA or CARA.

On sites where minimum required horizontal setbacks to wells or surface waters cannot be maintained, reductions in these setbacks shall be reviewed using the standards and mitigations appearing in Article IV, Section 9, and/or the Class "A" Waiver criteria as published by WSDOH, with the exception that, for a sewage system repair, the actual waiver will not be required. Reductions in vertical separation shall be reviewed as for new construction.

5. Designers Must Thoroughly Evaluate Failing Systems

In every case, the Designer must do a thorough investigation of the site and soils, assess and address cause of a failure and propose repairs or modifications, which address concerns of public health significance on each project site, with new construction standards being the ultimate goal.