



THURSTON COUNTY
Washington Est. 1852

**Public Health & Social Services
POLICY**

Policy Title

USE OF TABLE VI FOR SEWAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS AND MODIFICATIONS

Number

ONST.20.POL.814

Effective Date

09/12/2012

Latest Approval Date

09/12/2012

Approved By

Art Starry

Next Review Date

06/21/2029

POLICY INTENT

Purpose

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

Scope

☒ Internal Only ☐ Direct Impact to Citizens

Are Office/Department Documents on this subject permitted?

☒ Yes, The policy clarifies regulations used only by the Environmental Health Division (Article IV and WAC 246-272A)

☐ No

POLICY STATEMENT

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 application/fee will not be required except under extenuating circumstances. Reductions in vertical separation shall be reviewed as for new construction.

5. Designers Must Thoroughly Evaluate Failing System

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.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS


Modification	A modification is defined as an alteration to an OSS that is not the result of new construction, a repair, or an expansion.
OSS	“On-Site Sewage System” means an integrated system of components located on or nearby the property it serves, that conveys, stores, treats, and/or provides subsurface soil treatment and dispersal of sewage. It consists of a collection system, a treatment component or treatment sequence, and a soil dispersal component. An OSS also refers to a holding tank sewage system or other system that does not have a soil dispersal component.
GSA	“Geologically Sensitive Area” Is an area of definite boundaries established by the Thurston County Board of Health, which, because of geological conditions, is subject to aquifer, drinking water supply or surface water contamination.
CARA	"Critical aquifer recharge area" means an area with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, including areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water, or is susceptible to reduced recharge.

RELEVANT LAWS AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

County Code	Article IV, Sections 8.1.1.6, 17 & 22 Article I Sections 2.3 and 20, Appendix B
State Law State Rule	WAC 246-272A-0280
Other Sources	Critical Areas Ordinance Title 24
Superseded Documents	ONST.12.POL.814
Supporting Documents	N/A
Related Documents	N/A
Communication and Implementation Strategy	The Policy Owner 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 PHSS intranet site.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Policy Owner	Steve Petersen/Program Manager, Environmental Health Division
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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated with minor corrections, added acronyms and definitions and document references. Clarified an exception. No waiver form/fee required
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
	Steven Davies/Environmental Health Specialist II _____ Name/Title	_____ Name/Title
	Wendy Jonas/Environmental Health Specialist II _____ 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	Sewage system, repair, modification, OSS, GSA, CARA