

On-Site Rule Revision Issues: Various

Problem Statement

DOH received many suggestions through the Rule Review and Rule Revision processes. This paper addresses many of the remaining miscellaneous items. Revisions to the applicable sections are intended to increase public health protections by adding clarity and specificity to the rule.

Recommendations to Consider

RED – deletions **Blue** – additions to existing rule language **Green** – new revisions (not reviewed by subcommittee)

Updates to Definitions

"Standard methods" means the **23rd** ~~20th~~ *Edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, prepared and published jointly by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

"Pressure distribution" means a system of small diameter pipes equally distributing effluent throughout a **OSS SSAS**, as described in the department's "Recommended Standards and Guidance for Pressure Distribution Systems," **2007** ~~2001~~. A subsurface drip system may be used wherever the chapter requires pressure distribution.

CHANGES FOR CONSISTENCY (with other parts of OSS WAC or Greywater WAC)

SSAS - WAC 246-272A-0010

"Subsurface soil absorption system" (SSAS) means a soil dispersal component of trenches or beds containing either a distribution pipe within a layer of drainrock covered with a geotextile, or an approved gravelless distribution technology, designed and installed in **suitable**, original, undisturbed, unsaturated soil providing at least minimal vertical separation as established in this chapter, with either gravity or pressure distribution of the treatment component effluent.

SSAS - WAC 246-272A-0234 (3) (b)

(3) All SSAS shall meet the following requirements:

(b) A minimum of six inches of sidewall must be located in **suitable**, original, undisturbed, **unsaturated** soil;

Vertical Separation - WAC 246-272A-0010

"**Vertical separation**" means the depth of **suitable**, ~~unsaturated~~, original, undisturbed, **unsaturated** soil of soil types 1-6 between the bottom infiltrative surface of a soil dispersal component and the highest seasonal water table, a restrictive layer, or soil type 7 as illustrated below by the profile drawing of subsurface soil absorption systems:

Greywater - WAC 246-272A-0010

"**Greywater**" means sewage from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, washing machines, dishwashers, and kitchen sinks. It includes sewage from any source in a residence or structure that has not come into contact with toilet wastes.

Greywater - WAC 246-272A-0015(16)

In the plan required in subsection (1) of this section and in local regulations, the local health officer may address water conservation and include options for the nonpotable reuse of **greywater**. Any treatment and dispersal of **greywater** outside the residence or structure must comply with this chapter.

CHANGES TO ALREADY REVIEWED SECTIONS

TAG - WAC 246-272A-0400

~~RED~~ – deletions **Blue** – additions to existing rule language (previously approved by ORRC)
Green – new revisions (proposed by subcommittee)

Technical advisory ~~committee~~ **group (TAG).**

(1) The department shall:

(a) Maintain a ~~technical advisory committee~~ **TAG** to advise the department regarding:

(i) OSS design and siting;

(ii) Public domain technologies and recommended standards and guidance for their use;

and

(iii) Testing and design standards used for proprietary product registration and recommended standards and guidance for use of proprietary products.

(b) Select members for the ~~technical advisory committee~~ TAG for three-year terms with technical or scientific knowledge applicable to OSS from agencies, professions, and organizations including entities such as:

- (i) Local health departments;
 - (ii) Engineering firms;
 - (iii) The department of ecology;
 - (iv) Land sales, development and building industries;
 - (v) Public sewer utilities;
 - (vi) On-site sewage system designers,
 - (vii) installation firms
 - (viii) maintenance firms;
 - (ix) Certified Professional Soil Scientist;
 - ~~(x)~~ (x) Environmental organizations;
 - ~~(xi)~~ (xi) University/college academic communities;
 - ~~(xii)~~ (xii) On-site sewage system or related product manufacturers; and
 - ~~(xiii)~~ (xiii) Other interested organizations or groups.
- (c) Convene meetings as needed.

~~(2) The department may have a representative on the technical advisory committee~~

(d) Assign a departmental staff person from the wastewater management program to give oversight to the TAG and publish meeting notes.

(2) At the department's discretion this group may be merged with the PAG.

Owner Responsibilities

WAC 246-272A-0270

~~RED~~ – deletions Blue – additions to existing rule language (previously approved by ORRC)
Green – new revisions (proposed by subcommittee)

Operation, monitoring, and maintenance—Owner responsibilities.

(1) The OSS owner is responsible for operating, monitoring, and maintaining the OSS to minimize the risk of failure, and to accomplish this purpose, shall:

(a) Request assistance from the local health officer upon occurrence of a system failure or suspected system failure;

(b) Obtain approval from the local health officer before repairing, altering or expanding an OSS ~~if required by-~~ section 0200.~~the local health jurisdiction;~~

(c) Obtain approval from the local health officer before beginning use of any newly constructed OSS;

(c) Secure and renew contracts for periodic maintenance ~~where~~ if required by the local health jurisdiction;

(d) Obtain and renew operation permits if required by the local health jurisdiction;

(e) ~~Assure a complete evaluation of the~~ Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, by an inspector authorized by the local health officer, of all ~~system~~ OSS

components and/or property to determine functionality, maintenance needs and compliance with regulations and any permits:

- (i) At least once every three years for all ~~systems~~ OSS consisting solely of a septic tank and gravity SSAS;
- (ii) Annually for all other systems unless more frequent inspections are specified by the local health officer;
- (f) Employ an approved pumper to remove the septage from the tank when the level of solids and scum indicates that removal is necessary;
- (g) Provide maintenance and needed repairs to promptly return the system to a proper operating condition;
- (h) Protect the OSS area and the reserve area from:
 - (i) Cover by structures or impervious material;
 - (ii) Surface drainage, and direct drains, such as footing or roof drains. The drainage must be directed away from the area where the OSS is located;
 - (iii) Soil compaction, for example by vehicular traffic or livestock; and
 - (iv) Damage by soil removal and grade alteration;
- (i) Keep the flow of sewage to the OSS at or below the approved operating capacity and sewage quality;
- (j) Operate and maintain systems as directed by the local health officer;
- ~~(j) Request assistance from the local health officer upon occurrence of a system failure or suspected system failure;~~ and
- (k) At the time of property transfer: ;
 - (i) Provide to the buyer, all available maintenance and repair records, if available, in addition to the completed seller disclosure statement in accordance with chapter 64.06 RCW for residential real property transfers; -
 - (ii) Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, ~~of the OSS at the time of property transfer~~ by an inspector authorized by the local health officer. The local health officer may verify the results of the property transfer inspection for compliance with WAC 246-272A-0260. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with the inspection requirements of this section; and
 - (iii) Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, of ~~advanced treatment systems with proprietary treatment products done at the time of property transfer~~ by an inspector approved by the local health officer per the product manufacturer recommendations. The local health officer may verify the results of this inspection for compliance with WAC 246-272A-0260 and the product manufacturer recommendations. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with the inspection requirements of this section.
- (2) Persons shall not:
 - (a) Use or introduce strong bases, acids or chlorinated organic solvents into an OSS for the purpose of system cleaning;
 - (b) Use a sewage system additive unless it is specifically approved by the department; ~~or~~
 - (c) Use an OSS to dispose of waste components atypical of sewage from a residential source; ~~or~~

(d) Use any remediation process or activity ~~if it conflicts with a locally~~ unless approved ~~remediation program~~ by the local health officer.