

On-Site Rule Revision Issue: Policy Advisory Group - WAC 246-272A-0410

Problem Statement

The current version of the rule is no longer specifically applicable based on legislation from 2010 (ESSHB 2617) eliminating committees. The precursor to what we propose to call the Policy Advisory Group (PAG), was the Policy Advisory Committee. This former committee was tasked with a slightly different role than the proposed PAG, in that the committee carried more authority as they were empowered to make specific recommendations to the department. The PAG works more as an advisory group leaving the final decision to the department.

The department finds it important for the ongoing protection of public health and the environment to not only make the name change, but to spell out some specific responsibilities of each group, and the relationship between the PAG and the department.

Options

1. (Preferred) Update and revise the name, but also the language in section -0410 to better describe the role and function of the PAG. Existing section (2) is no longer commonly in use.
2. Make a name change to match the existing common use of the name TAG, and only delete section (2).

Pros/Cons

PROs for recommendation to use option #1	CONs for recommendation to use option #1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes advantage of the opportunity to improve the rule.• Removes outdated language from the rule.• More clearly outlines responsibilities and roles of the PAG and DOH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds more specific language that could bring concern by some with the appearance of added DOH involvement.• Added language decreases flexibility for those involved giving more specific direction.

RED = deleted existing language

BLUE = added new language

Recommendation & Optional Rule Language to Consider

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Policy advisory ~~committee~~ group (PAG).

- (1) The department shall:
 - (a) Maintain a ~~policy advisory committee~~ PAG to:
 - (i) Make recommendations concerning **on-site sewage system (OSS)** departmental policy and regulations;
 - (ii) Review **OSS** program services; and
 - (iii) Provide input to the department regarding the ~~on-site sewage~~ **OSS** program;
 - (b) Select members **for three-year terms** from agencies, professions, organizations having knowledge and interest in OSS, and groups which are affected by the regulations; and
 - (c) Convene meetings as needed.
 - ~~(2) The department may have a representative on the policy advisory committee.~~
 - (d) Assign a departmental staff person **from the wastewater management program to give oversight to the PAG and publish meeting notes.**
 - (2) **At the department's discretion this group may be merged with the TAG.**

** [Review note, not intended for inclusion in the rule: DOH could develop a guidance manual that might include things like deciding when a meeting is needed, creating agendas, facilitation of the meeting, publishing notes from the PAG meeting (especially decisions), recruiting members, tracking lengths of member terms, finding locations and reserving space for the meetings, etc.]*