

Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Wastewater Management

Memorandum

To: Licensed Designers

From: Roger Thompson

Re: New Rules Effective August 16, 2002
Meetings

Date: August 8, 2002

The Department will be holding meetings to review the new rules that are effective August 16, 2002. The meetings will run from 9 am until noon at the following locations:

1. August 19, 2002 White River Junction

At the Veteran's Hospital. The meeting will be in room 103 of the Research and Education Building. Except for handicapped accessible parking, parking is across Route 4 in the dirt surface parking lot by the Texaco Station and the Super 8 Motel. Because it is their research facilities we are requested to not roam through the building.

2. August 20, 2002 Rutland

At the Holiday Inn, 476 Route 7 South
Rutland, Vermont 802-775-1711

3. August 21, 2002 South Burlington

At the Sheraton Inn, 870 Williston Road
Burlington, Vermont 802-865-6600

4. August 22, 2002 St. Johnsbury

At the Comfort Inn, 703 US Route 5 South
St. Johnsbury, VT, US (802) 748-1500

I also wanted to just mention a few of the changes related to the technical portion of the new rules:

1. There is a new requirement that potable water supplies and leachfields be located using a global positioning system receiver. §1-302(c)(1)(J).
2. There is specific certification language to be signed by the licensed designer. This is statutory language that the Department cannot alter without legislative action. §1-302(b)(1).
3. Performance based systems require a minimum of 18” of naturally occurring soil above bedrock.
4. Performance based systems require that the induced water table, which is the combination of the SHWT and the effluent discharged from the system, be designed to remain at least 6” below the surface of the naturally occurring ground.
5. There are two levels of effluent quality recognized in the rules. Septic tank effluent and filtrate effluent. Filtrate effluent has a maximum concentration of BOD₅ and TSS of 30 mg/l each.
6. The bottom of the leachfield must be at least 36” above the SHWT and 48” above bedrock when applying septic tank effluent. The bottom of the leachfield must be at least 24” above the SHWT and bedrock when applying filtrate effluent. Ground water mounding may need to be accounted for, depending on the type and size of the system. See §1-507(d).
7. Design flows for single family residences have been revised. The design flow for each person is 70 GPD. Each of the first three bedrooms is assumed to have a minimum of two people. Additional bedrooms may be designed on one additional person. There is no low flow credit related to plumbing fixtures. Each lot must accommodate at least a 3 bedroom house.
8. The design flow may be reduced when 5 or more single family residences are connected to the same wastewater disposal system. §1-504 Table 1 (b).
9. Design flows have also been revised for campgrounds. §1-504 Table 1, Campgrounds.
10. The criteria for groundwater level monitoring have been revised to reflect the changes in the minimum site conditions. §1-507.
11. All septic tanks must have access risers to grade. §1-508(c)
12. All septic tanks must have outlet filters. §1-508(e)

13. Pressure distribution requirements are revised. §1-510
14. Sand filters have some minor revisions related to distribution systems.
15. Holding tanks are an option for existing failed systems without a viable option.
16. At-grade systems may be constructed on slopes up to 20% §1-518(b)(3), or 30% under some circumstances.
17. Failed systems may use cost as one factor in deciding what the best fix system should be. The issue is no ability to pay, but the relation between additional expense and additional health and environmental protection.
18. The requirement for dual alternating systems was removed except for larger at-grade systems.
19. The lot size and flood plain requirements have been removed.
20. Only filter fabric may be used to cover the crushed stone.
21. The two-year and four-year waiting periods for site technicians doing single lot subdivisions have been removed.
22. The reductions in minimum site limitations may be used for lots created after 6-13-2002 only in towns with a confirmed town planning process and zoning. A town may have a town plan and not have a confirmed planning process. Check the list published by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.
23. The planning and zoning limitations do not apply to use of systems that have state approval as innovative /alternative systems under the general, pilot, or experimental categories.