



POLICY REGARDING: Operation and Maintenance Alternative Systems Meeting Treatment Standard 1 and/or 2

PURPOSE

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Effluent Quality Based Drainfield Systems Recommended Standards and Guidance Document (RS&G) requires that a procedure be implemented to assure proper on-going operation & maintenance (O&M) of alternative onsite sewage systems serving sites where either Treatment Standard 1 or 2 must be met.

Operation and maintenance requirements protect the public health by assuring that owners are aware of their sewage systems and their responsibility to provide ongoing O&M.

BACKGROUND

In order to comply with this requirement, Snohomish Health District (SHD) will require the following for all applications and renewals submitted for review upon the effective date of this Policy when an alternative system is proposed and Treatment Standard 1 or 2 must be met:

- 1) An O&M Covenant outlining permit conditions and reservations and practices must be filed onto the property title. At a minimum the Covenant shall include conditions and reservations and practices as listed on Attachment "A" Example Covenant. A draft copy of a Covenant shall be included with the application for onsite sewage disposal system permit. A conformed copy of the recorded Covenant must be provided prior to approval of building construction clearance and/or installation permit; and,
- 2) A signed O&M service contract(s) for the entire wastewater system with a State Licensed Designer, SHD Certified Installer or qualified Professional Engineer for a minimum two year period prior to building construction clearance approval and/or installation permit issuance. A manufacturer-authorized representative shall perform O&M service on a proprietary aerobic treatment unit and/or disinfection unit of a system. O&M minimum maintenance activities and service items shall be in accordance with the applicable RS&G document(s); and, at a minimum shall include an initial inspection six months after the system is installed and operating, and annually thereafter; and,
- 3) The O&M service contract(s) shall be renewable.
- 4) The O&M service provider reports must be made available for SHD review upon request.
- 5) All new application submittals and renewals are subject to the payment of a one year SHD operation and maintenance monitoring fee prior to building construction clearance approval and/or permit issuance. The fee, as set in the current SHD fee schedule, will support record management, tracking, and follow up SHD homeowner education and information activities.

This policy is effective April 16, 2001.

Robert A. Pekich, Director
Environmental Health Division

Date

Attachment