



Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems

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Environmental Health Section

TABLE OF CONTENTS

..... 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS 1

INDEX OF TABLES 5

INDEX OF FIGURES 5

INDEX OF FORMS..... 6

INTRODUCTION..... 7

Format of the Manual7

Content of the Manual8

Acknowledgements8

ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS RULES 11

511-3-1-.01 Applicability.....11

511-3-1-.02 Definitions.....11

511-3-1-.03 General Requirements for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.....15

511-3-1-.04 Sewers.....18

511-3-1-.05 Septic Tanks.....18

511-3-1-.06 Distribution Devices and Dosing Tanks.....19

511-3-1-.07 Absorption Fields.....19

511-3-1-.08 Privies.....20

511-3-1-.09 Alternative On-Site Sewage Management Systems.....20

511-3-1-.10 Experimental On-Site Sewage Management Systems.....20

511-3-1-.11 Septage Removal and Disposal.....21

511-3-1-.12 Grease Traps.....22

511-3-1-.13 Sewage Flow.....22

511-3-1-.14 Subdivision and Mobile Home Parks.....22

511-3-1-.15 Technical Review Committee.....23

511-3-1-.16 Certification of Soil Classifiers, Septic Tank Contractors, On-Site Sewage Management System Inspectors, Maintenance Personnel, and Sewage Pumps.....24

511-3-1-.17 Maintenance and Operation.....25

511-3-1-.18 Standards for Non-Conventional On-Site Sewage Management Systems.....25

511-3-1-.19 Decertification and Denial of Renewal.....26

SECTION B - GENERAL SITE PROVISIONS..... 29

1) Soil Characteristics29

2) Ground Water29

3) Bedrock and Impervious Strata.....29

4) Topographical and Other Site Conditions.....29

5) Tables, Figures and Forms.....31

SECTION C - SOIL INFORMATION..... 33

1) Preface33

2) Introduction.....33

3) Soil Evaluations44

4) Soil Investigations.....52

5) Glossary of Soil Terms57

6)	Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity Guidance	62
7)	Tables, Figures and Forms	67
SECTION D - PRETREATMENT		94
1)	Preface	94
2)	Septic Tank Pretreatment Units	94
3)	Precast Concrete Septic Tanks	94
4)	Precast Concrete Pump/Dosing Tanks	97
5)	Septic Tanks Constructed on Site	98
6)	Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic Septic Tanks	98
7)	Polyethylene Septic Tanks	101
8)	Filtration Devices for Residential Gravity Flow Septic Tank Systems	103
9)	Aerobic Treatment Units	104
10)	Class I Effluent Systems	110
11)	Nitrogen Reduction	112
12)	Portable Toilets	112
13)	Incinerator Toilets	112
14)	Composting Toilets	113
15)	Water Saving Devices and Fixtures	113
16)	Separate Black Water - Gray Water Systems	113
17)	Privies	114
18)	Grease Traps	114
19)	Septic Tank Riser and Lid Systems	116
20)	Tables, Figures, Forms	119
SECTION E - EFFLUENT DISTRIBUTION AND DOSING DEVICES		127
1)	Preface	127
2)	Distribution Devices	127
3)	Dosing Devices	129
4)	Pumps and Ancillary Equipment	131
5)	Tables, Figures and Forms	133
SECTION F – DISPERSAL SYSTEMS		137
1)	Preface	137
2)	Aggregate Absorption Field Systems	137
3)	Absorption Field Methods for Conventional Septic Tank Systems	139
4)	Chamber Systems	142
5)	Wisconsin Mound Soil Absorption System	142
6)	Minimum Criteria for Pressurized Subsurface Absorption Fields Utilizing Emitters	151
7)	Guidelines for domestic wastewater application for absorption fields designed for Class I effluent	155
8)	Tables, Figures, and Forms	156
SECTION G - EXPERIMENTAL ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ...		175
1)	Definition	175
2)	Request for Approval	175
3)	Technical Review	175
4)	Permitting	176
5)	Installation	176
6)	Record Keeping	177
7)	Monitoring and Testing	177
8)	Final Disposition	177

9) Table, Figures and Forms	178
SECTION H – SITE MODIFICATIONS.....	181
1) General Guidelines for Filling of Land.....	181
2) General Guidelines for Drainage of Land.....	182
3) Artificially Drained Systems.....	183
4) Subsurface Drainage Problems	183
5) Selection of Drainage Method	184
6) Mound System Modification	185
7) Alternative Distribution System Specifications	185
8) Simplified Falling-Head Permeameter Test for Fill Material for Disposal Fields	185
9) Tables, Figures and Forms	187
SECTION I – SEPTAGE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.....	194
1) Septage Removal Permits	194
2) Standards for Septage Removal	194
3) Septage Disposal.....	194
4) Temporary Storage of Septage.....	194
5) Tables, Figures and Forms	196
SECTION J – SEWAGE FLOW SCHEDULE.....	199
SECTION K – FIELD INSPECTIONS	203
1) Preface	203
2) Request for Inspection	203
3) Inspection of Septic Tanks.....	203
4) Inspection of Conveyance Piping	204
5) Inspection of Distribution Devices	204
6) Inspection of Trenches.....	205
7) Inspection of a Subsurface Emitter System	206
8) Inspection of Wisconsin Mound Systems	208
SECTION L – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	210
1) Operation	210
2) Maintenance.....	210
3) Performance Evaluation of Existing On-site Sewage Management Systems	211
4) Tables, Figures and Forms	212
SECTION M – RECOMMENDED LOT SIZING CRITERIA	217
1) Lot size requirements.....	217
2) Lot Sizing Non-Single Family Dwellings.....	218
3) Criteria for Protection of Groundwater Recharge Areas.....	219
4) Tables, Figures and Forms	219
SECTION N - CERTIFICATION.....	223
1) Preface	223
2) Definitions	223
3) Basic Requirements for Initial Certification	223
4) Additional Certification Requirements	224
5) Requirements for Renewal Certification.....	226
6) Certification Exams	227

7) Certification Fees	227
8) Establishment of the Certification Review Committee	228
9) Establishment of the Soil Classifiers' Certification Advisory Committee	228
SECTION O – APPENDIX.....	231
1) Appendix 1 - Pressure Distribution Network Design.....	231
2) Appendix 2 - Wisconsin Mound Design Example.....	256
3) Appendix 3 - Inspecting Wisconsin Mound.....	260
4) Appendix 4 - Troubleshooting Wisconsin Mound Systems.....	262
5) Appendix 5 - Pathogenic Microorganisms in Domestic Wastewater and the Diseases They Cause	269
6) Appendix 6 - Septic Tank System Failure	270
7) Appendix 7 - Pipe Fittings	282

INDEX OF TABLES

Table 1.C	Soil Series Suitability Codes.....	67
Table 2.C	Soil Series Suitability.....	68
Table 3.C	Soil Texture.....	82
Table 4.D	Performance Standards/Testing Protocol for Aerobic Treatment Units.....	119
Table 5.F	Recommended Soil and Site Criteria for Wisconsin Mound System.....	156
Table 6.F	Estimated Design Basal Loading Rates.....	157
Table 7.F	Hydraulic Loading Rates for Fields Utilizing Emitters, Class I Effluent.....	157
Table 8.F	Absorption Field Sizing Coefficients for Class I Effluent Systems.....	158
Table 9.F	Percolation Coefficient Calculations for Non-Residential Facilities.....	160
Table 10.F	Residential Trench Absorption Field Sizing.....	160
Table 11.H	Drainage Methods for Various Site Characteristics.....	187
Table 12.H	Use of Subsurface Drains to Control Ground Water Table.....	188
Table 13.J	Sewage Flow Schedule.....	199
Table 14.J	Design Basis for Central Septic Tank Systems.....	201
Table 15.L	Est. Septic Tank Pumping Frequencies (in Yrs) for Year-Round Residences.....	212
Table 16.M	MT-1 Minimum Lot Sizes – Single Family Dwellings.....	217
Table 17.M	MT-2 Minimum Lot Sizes – Non-Single Family Dwellings.....	219

INDEX OF FIGURES

Figure 1.B	Slope - Minimum Soil Depth.....	31
Figure 2.C	Georgia Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA's).....	83
Figure 3.C	Example Soil Report: Page 1 of 2.....	83
Figure 4.C	Example Soil Report: Page 2 of 2.....	85
Figure 5.D	Septic Tank Specifications.....	120
Figure 6.D	Aerobic Treatment Unit.....	121
Figure 7.D	Typical Composting Toilets.....	121
Figure 8.D	Standard Grease Trap Detail.....	123
Figure 9.D	Septic Tank to Grease Trap Conversion.....	124
Figure 10.D	Pit Privy Design Detail.....	125
Figure 11.E	Typical Dosing Tank with Pump.....	133
Figure 12.E	Sewage Siphon.....	134
Figure 13.E	Criteria for Drainfields 500 to 1000 Feet.....	135
Figure 14.E	Criteria for Drainfields >1000.....	135
Figure 15.F	Distribution Box System Installation Example.....	161
Figure 16.F	Level Field Installation Example.....	161
Figure 17.F	Serial System Installation.....	161
Figure 18.F	Alternating Drainfields with Diversion Valve.....	161
Figure 19.F	Trench Installation Examples.....	162
Figure 20.F	Central Manifold Distribution Network.....	164
Figure 21.F	End of Manifold Distribution Network.....	164
Figure 22.F	Wisconsin Mound General Diagrams.....	165
Figure 23.F	Wisconsin Mound vs. Area Fill Mound Detail.....	165
Figure 24.F	Effluent Movement – Wisconsin Mound.....	166

Figure 25.F	Observation Tube Detail	167
Figure 26.F	Sieve Analysis for Acceptable Fill Material	168
Figure 27.F	Wisconsin Mound Sloping Site Detail	169
Figure 28.F	Wisconsin Mound Level Site Detail	170
Figure 29.F	Drip Emitter System Detail	171
Figure 30.H	Curtain Drain Detail	189
Figure 31.H	Vertical Drain Detail	189
Figure 32.H	Underdrain Detail	189
Figure 33.H	Side View of Piping Distribution System in a Wisconsin Mound	190
Figure 34.H	Falling Head Permeameter Apparatus.....	190
Figure 35.H	Falling Head Permeameter Permeability Chart.....	192

INDEX OF FORMS

Form 1.C	Soil Data Record - Percolation, Water Table, and Soil Data	86
Form 2.C	Soil Survey Report Check List	87
Form 3.C	OSSMS Construction Permit (page 1).....	89
Form 4.C	OSSMS Construction Permit (page 2).....	90
Form 5.C	OSSMS Site Evaluation Request Form.....	91
Form 6.C	Lot Evaluation Record.....	92
Form 7.F	Wisconsin Mound System Worksheet	172
Form 8.F	Engineered Site Plan Checksheet.....	173
Form 9.G	Administrative and Monitoring Criteria for an Experimental Sewage System	178
Form 10.G	DPH Experimental Sewage System Monitoring Record	179
Form 11.H	OSSMS Filled Site Certification Form	191
Form 12.I	Waste Removal and Disposal Application and Permit	196
Form 13.I	Waste Removal and Disposal Inspection Form	197
Form 14.L	Existing On-site Sewage Management System Performance Evaluation Report..	213
Form 15.M	Subdivision Analysis Record.....	220

INTRODUCTION

A major factor influencing the health of individuals where public or community sewerage is not available is the proper treatment and disposal of human wastes and other sewage, including industrial and processing waste. Many diseases, such as dysentery, infectious hepatitis, typhoid and paratyphoid, and various types of gastrointestinal problems are transmitted from one person to another through the fecal contamination of food and water, largely due to the improper disposal of human wastes. Chemical contaminants affecting individuals through individual drinking water supplies have been attributed to groundwater pollution caused by improper subsurface disposal of on-site sewage. Because of such problems, every effort shall be made to prevent the existence of these and other potential health hazards.

Safe disposal of all wastes, human, domestic and industrial, is necessary to protect the health of the individual family and the community and to prevent the occurrence of nuisances. To accomplish satisfactory results, all such wastes must be disposed of in such a manner that:

1. They will not contaminate any approved drinking water supply;
2. They will not give rise to a public health hazard by being accessible to insects, rodents, or other possible carriers of disease that may come into contact with food or drinking water;
3. They will not give rise to a public health hazard by being accessible to children;
4. They will not violate laws or regulations governing water pollution or sewage disposal;
5. They will not pollute or contaminate the waters of any bathing beach, shellfish breeding ground, stream or lake used for public or domestic water supply, or for recreational purposes; and
6. They will not give rise to a nuisance due to odors or unsightly appearance.

Where public or community sewage disposal systems are not accessible, these criteria can be met by the discharge of sewage to an adequate on-site sewage management system. Such a system can be expected to function satisfactorily if properly designed and installed where soil and site conditions are favorable and properly maintained. Experience through the years has shown that adequate supervision, inspection, and maintenance are required to insure compliance in this respect.

It is the intention of this Manual to serve as:

1. A technical reference to enhance public health protection;
2. A good source of information for professionals and individuals interested in the on-site sewage management program including public health professionals, engineers, scientists, environmentalists, septic system installers, septic tank pumpers, soil consultants, home builders, land developers, and the general public.

Format of the Manual

This Manual is designed to be kept in a loose-leaf three hole binder so that updates, revisions and technical information can be added easily.

Content of the Manual

This Manual is divided into 16 sections: Section A provides the Rules of the Department of Public Health for On-site Sewage Management Systems, Chapter 511-3-1." Section B covers the general soil provisions for on-site sewage management systems. Chapter C discusses the role of soil information and use of soils in sewage treatment and disposal. Sections D through F cover the technical design standards for on-site sewage management systems. Section G describes the concept and process for obtaining permits for experimental systems. Section H discusses site modifications. Section I describes procedures for septage removal and disposal. Section J provides the sewage flow schedule. Section K details field inspections needed before on-site sewage management systems are put into operation. Section L covers operation and maintenance for the systems. Section M discusses lot sizing for development of individual properties, subdivisions, and mobile home parks. Section N provides procedures for certification and de-certification of septic tank contractors, inspection personnel, pumpers, soil classifiers, and maintenance personnel. Section O provides the appendices while Section P provides a list of references.

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The June 2019 updates to the Manual were made based on actions taken by the DPH Technical Review Committee, Certification Review Committee, and the Department's General Counsel.

The updates included reviewing the Manual for consistency of font and formatting, corrections to typos and grammar, and a complete revision of all Tables, Figures, and Forms. The update also included newly adopted language for performing measured saturated hydraulic conductivity tests and a revised plastic riser standard.

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