



January 13, 2021

**Re: CDHD Onsite Septic System Program Updates**

To: All CDHD licensed septic system installers, operation & maintenance providers, and local onsite designers/engineers

Welcome to 2021,

I would first like to introduce our Onsite Program staff at Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD):

Richmond Petty, R.S. - Onsite/Land Use Program Manager  
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[ehsupport@cdhd.wa.gov](mailto:ehsupport@cdhd.wa.gov).

Please direct all inquiries and inspection requests to our direct phone lines and email addresses. This is the best method for a quick and accurate response to your questions and needs.

**FINAL INSPECTIONS**

The biggest change for this upcoming year will be our new inspection schedule, see attached field coverage schedule. I appreciate the feedback response for my initial field inspection coverage proposal and I altered the schedule in an effort to meet everyone's needs. Essentially, we will cover all local sites daily and provide coverage to East & West Chelan County twice per week, and outlying Douglas County areas once per week. This schedule will be more efficient, provide you with a set schedule for planning, and allow us to conduct all final inspections. This new schedule will be effective starting February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

To help us meet your timelines, please provide inspection request notices at least a day in advance using the new inspection schedule (for example, submit inspection requests for Cashmere on Monday or earlier). Additionally, our office must complete all final inspections. If you are a Licensed Designer, please inform our staff of any inspection requests that you receive so that we may conduct our own final inspection to satisfy WAC 246-272A-0260(1), which states the following:

*For all activities requiring a permit, the local health officer shall:*

- (a) Visit the OSS site during the site evaluation, construction, or final construction inspection*

In most cases, the health district was not present at the site evaluation nor during the construction phase of the installation of the septic system. Therefore, to meet the conditions of the code, the health district must conduct the final inspection. The issued permit will specify this requirement and our staff will begin to note this requirement on the approved design. Our top priority is to complete all final inspections.

As a reminder, the drainfield must remain open for inspection unless we grant prior approval to cover parts of the system. When approval is granted to cover a portion of the septic system, photos of the installation prior to cover must be provided.

### LICENSED INSTALLER CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Installers are only authorized to install gravity and pressure distributions systems with standard drainfield trenches or beds. Additional certification from Approved Septic System Providers and/or Manufacturers is required to install the following systems:

- Subsurface Drip Disposal
- Advantex
- Bio-Microbics
- NuWater
- LoweFlow
- Other Approved Enhanced Treatment Systems

These additional certifications must be provided to CDHD and will be subject to renewal. CDHD will not approve systems from Installers who do not meet the certification requirements of the system being installed. Please contact our office for specific certification requirements

### LICENSED INSTALLER RENEWALS & CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

All Licenses expire September 30<sup>th</sup>. Failure to renew your license by the expiration date will require a new application to become an installer. There is no grace period for late renewals. CDHD will require continuing education credits each year to meet renewal requirements. One CEU or 8 contact hours of training is required each year. For this year, any continuing education earned in 2020 may carryover for 2021. Recognized courses are offered by Washington On-site Sewage Systems Association (WOSSA) and approved septic system providers and/or manufacturers. Most of the training is now offered entirely on-line and free of charge. Please submit your continuing education training certifications or documentation anytime during the year, or with your renewal application.

### SEPTIC TANK ABANDONMENT FORM

CDHD has created a Septic Tank Abandonment Form (see attached), which is also available on our website. Please complete the form when it applies to a septic permit. To properly abandon a septic tank in place requires the following:



- Remove any septage by an approved septic pumper
- Tank lid must be removed or destroyed
- Tank void filled with compacted soil or gravel; or tank broken up in place

The abandoned septic tank may also be removed from the site after septage removed and disposed of at an approved facility.

#### TERRA LIFTING PROCESS

Recently, a septic system repair was completed using a terralifting process, which uses a probe to inject compressed air into the soil. I consulted with Leslie Turner with DOH-Wastewater and this septic system remediation method has not been reviewed or approved by the state and requires a septic permit. In addition, the process of terralifting will require a Class C Waiver in the permit process. Please be advised that if these services are planned, a septic repair permit will be required and terralifting may not be considered an approved remediation method.

#### AUTHORIZED SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGNS

This last year, I received a number of homeowner and installer applications with their own design. In our reviews, most of the designs were incomplete and contained errors. Our office will allow on a case by case basis homeowner or installer designs, but for the most part will require a design be submitted by a Licensed Designer or Professional Engineer per WAC 246-272A-0230 which states,

- (1) *On-site sewage systems may only be designed by professional engineers, licensed under chapter 18.43 RCW or on-site sewage treatment system designers, licensed under chapter 18.210 RCW*

An alternative option is that the local health district may design the system if we perform the soil and site evaluation.

I want to thank you in advance of incorporating our new septic system inspection schedule and other new changes. Arnica, Karina and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

Sincerely,

Richmond Petty, R.S.