

## **Minutes from the Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) Task Force – Regulatory Working Group Meeting of January 17, 2001**

The meeting was held in Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street.

Meeting began at approximately 8:20.

In attendance:

Russ Chateauf, Rob Adler, Kendra Beaver, Alison Walsh, George Loomis, Tim Stasiunas, Tom D'Angelo, Joe Frisella, Scott Moorehead, Ernie Panciera

Review of minutes from January 3, 2001 was postponed until the next meeting.

The DEM emergency amendment waiving the requirement for a site evaluation if the applicant has valid field data for water table elevations collected prior to January 31, 2001 was filed with the Secretary of State.

Prior to expiration of the emergency amendment, DEM intends to promulgate a rule change under the standard procedures to address the issue of site evaluation requirement for sites with previously approved field data. This issue was the subject of discussion for the entire meeting. The following suggestions and options were discussed:

- \* Site evaluation not required for approved subdivisions, since much more detailed information is routinely collected than for individual lots.
- \* One-year window within which anyone with field data compiled after July 21, 1987 may use or revalidate such data without having to conduct a site evaluation. Data can be revalidated by Class II or III designer.
- \* One-year window should begin at date of promulgation of the amendment, not one year from January 31, 2001.
- \* Beyond the one-year window:
  - Critical sites conduct full site evaluation;
  - Non-critical sites conduct modified site evaluation.
- \* Modified site evaluation would not require excavating equipment and would not require notification to DEM. Suggested that this could be used on all sites (critical and non-critical).
- \* Critical sites could be defined as:
  - Within 100 feet of a watercourse;
  - Within 150 feet of coastal pond or Narrow River;
  - Within 200 feet of surface water drinking water supply;
  - Sites with approved water table less than 4 feet.

Discussion of the benefits of requiring site evaluations where currently have valid field data.

- \* Several committee members felt that the valid field data is good data and that a designer should be able to use it with minimal restrictions. These members felt

that the number of failures due to misrepresentation of the water table was few. Therefore, there is no need for a site evaluation to determine the water table where such field data exists.

\* Russ responded that the site evaluation test was intended to replace current procedures relating to assessment of site suitability, but its applicability to sites previously tested under former procedures was to be addressed in future rule-making before the test became mandatory. Also, he said that the site evaluation provides a better analysis of a site. Collection of more reliable can data result in systems that are designed better and last longer, and uncovers problems before property is transferred to a new owner and installation begins. However, he also noted that, in general, the former procedures resulted in good system installations on most sites.

There was no agreement on how to proceed with this issue.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15.

#### Next Meetings

Meetings will be held in Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street.

- \* Wednesday, January 31, 2001 8 AM to 10 AM
- \* Tuesday, February 13, 2001 8 AM to 10 AM
- \* Wednesday, February 28, 2001 8 AM to 10 AM