

Accepted

Minutes from the Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) Task Force – Regulatory Working Group Meeting of July 24, 2001

The meeting was held in Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street and began at approximately 8:10 a.m.

In attendance:

Russ Chateaneuf, Susan Licardi, Rob Adler, Eugenia Marks, Alison Walsh, Kendra Beaver, Scott Moorehead, Tom D'Angelo, Joe Frisella, Ernie Panciera, Deb Knauss

Review of Minutes from July 17, 2001

Following the meeting, comments on the minutes were received via telephone message from George Loomis. George stated that he would like to strongly encourage the Regulatory Working Group to issue a statement or language, which recommends that denitrification or advanced treatment systems be used for repairs also.

Minutes were accepted, with modification of the section concerning “Denitrification Requirements in Coastal Areas”. The text to be modified appeared as the last paragraph on the first page. The modified text follows:

The Work Group agreed that the following three issues concerning requiring denitrification for repairs should be evaluated:

1. Necessity – based on science;
 2. Costs to homeowner – how to address/define financial hardship;
 3. Relative importance of protecting coastal waters from nitrogen versus pathogens.
- DEM will consider CRMC maps and other resource information in developing a proposed approach, which will require nitrogen-reducing systems for repairs in at least part of the watershed.

Sewage Flows

The issue of over-occupancy of rental homes during summer and by URI students during the academic year was discussed as a threat to ISDSs, since flows may exceed significantly, the design flows for the systems. Russ stated that this is can not be addressed by the ISDS regulations.

Russ stated that the definition of bedroom will be modified to be consistent with the building code. It was noted that the state’s revised building code is anticipated this August. DEM will monitor this to be certain that relevant changes are incorporated.

27.2.4 – Russ stated that the rule should state that this determination of number of bedrooms applies to single family residential dwellings.

27.2.5 – Russ noted that Table 27.2 and Rule 27.2.5 require modification:

- Table 27.2 indicates that dwellings with 3 or less rooms would be assumed to have 1 bedroom. DEM will not allow installation of a 1-bedroom system; this must be changed to a minimum of 2 bedrooms.
- Table 27.2 in the draft indicates that an 8 – 10 room home will be assumed to have 4 bedrooms; Rule 27.2.5 states that a property owner may self-restrict use of a residence to one less bedroom than which is indicated in Table 27.2. This will be modified such that it applies

only to the lower end of the range of rooms listed. For example, an 8-room house will be able to self restrict to 3 bedrooms, but a 9 or 10-room home will not.

It was suggested that single family residences be sized on the number of occupants. Russ stated that regulations based on occupancy are impractical from an enforcement perspective.

Leachfield Loading Rates

The “Sq. Ft./Bedroom After First Bedroom” column will be deleted from Table 38.2.1.

It was recommended that a distinction be made between systems with gravity distribution and time-dosed systems, with a smaller leachfield required for time-dosed systems. Russ stated that the issue of reduced leachfield sizing for time-dosed conventional systems would have to be studied.

Should time-dosing for flows above some threshold be required?

Fees

DEM is proposing increases in some of the ISDS fees. ISDS fees have not increased since 1992; the proposed fee increases were drafted with consideration of inflation and staff time involved in processing.

It was suggested that fees for both commercial and residential repairs and alterations be separated, with alteration application fees being higher than those for repairs, perhaps the same fee as new construction.

Status of Issues Proposed for Short-term Regulatory Change

The two recommendations to the Task Force, which were made at the last Regulatory Working Group Meeting, will be added to the list.

There was concern that the document did not reflect “consensus” or “no consensus” for each of the issues, which may be misleading. The document will be modified with a note concerning whether or not the group arrived at consensus on each issue.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, August 21, 2001 – 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 – 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street