



SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Staff, OWTS Professionals
FROM: Dan Hendershott
SUBJECT: Soil Characterization at Permit Reissuance (Section 12)
MEMO NO.: OWS_IM14-007
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7.28.14
PURPOSE: Establish guideline for accepting soils evaluation work done prior to the adoption of the current OWTS regulations.

Background

Soils evaluation is the foundation of an OWTS soil treatment area design. Methods for evaluating soils changed slightly on July 1, 2014, with the adoption of new Summit County OWTS regulations. The perc test methods currently define test intervals of every 30 minutes where previous versions did not define this well. Other minor changes were made to perc testing method. Visual and tactile evaluation of soil profile test pit excavations now must be done by the designer AND the SCEH staff where previously only SCEH staff were required to do this evaluation.

The question came up whether we will accept soil evaluation work done prior to July 1, 2014, in considering a permit issuance under the current regulation?

Application

In Summit County, the SCEH department receives three types of applications for OWTS soil treatment area construction; 1) New applications, 2) Renew/reissuance of expiring permits, and 3) Repair/replacement/upgrade of an existing soil treatment area.

Previously permitted OWTS permits have been established by the SCEH department to be appropriate designs based on soil evaluation done at the time.

Conclusion /Summary

Considering the three different types of OWTS applications received, the following policy/interpretation is established:

For new OWTS applications

Where a new OWTS application is received, the designer must perform a detailed soil investigation as required in section 12.3. When choosing to perform perc testing, the process must follow procedures outlined in section 12.4. This requirement also applies when a property has had an active OWTS permit in the past but allowed it to expire.

July 28, 2014

For OWTS permit renewals/reissuance

Where an existing OWTS permit is about to expire, and the applicant has submitted a request to extend this permit, the SCEH department will accept the soils evaluation work done previously based on a belief that previous evaluations: 1) used a reliable method, 2) requiring new soils evaluation would be unduly burdensome on the owner with little to no more reliable outcome, and 3) authority provided in section 12.5.G.

For OWTS repair/replacement/upgrade

Where an OWTS soil treatment area is being repaired replaced/upgraded, the designer must perform a detailed soil investigation as required in section 12.3. When choosing to perform perc testing the process must follow procedures outlined in section 12.4. This requirement also applies when a property has had an active OWTS permit in the past but allowed it to expire.