



**Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health,
Division of Health Engineering,
Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program Newsletter
Volume 23, Issue #8 September 2001**
Internet: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/plumb/index.html>

Back to Basics

The following items are issues which have each come up several times this past summer, so we thought they would bear repeating.

Expansions: Creating an apartment over or in a garage, whether the garage is attached or detached, creates a second dwelling unit which constitutes a major expansion which must meet First Time System criteria.

Seasonal Conversion: A system designed for the purpose of converting a seasonal structure/property to year-round status must have a minimum of 10 inches of suitable soil above the groundwater table or limiting factor, 80 foot setback to a major waterbody/course, and 60 foot setback to a well. There are no variances granted to these limits, pursuant to the Seasonal Conversion Rules. Variances may be granted for other setback limits, if reasonable and/or necessary.

Incomplete Forms: There have been many incomplete HHE-200 Forms submitted to this office this past summer, generally in association with variances. In particular, the most frequently omitted items on Page 1 have been "Type of Application", "Size of Property", and "Soil Data & Design Class", and missing Site Evaluator signatures. The most common problem with Page 2 has been partially completed description blocks in the test pit logs.

Premature Permits: We have received a number of variance requests, for which permit labels were already issued. When a State level variance is required, no permit labels should be issued for the design until such time as the variance may be approved by the Division.

Holding Tank Replacements: When designing or permitting an onsite sewage disposal system which will replace a holding tank, it is important to determine whether the holding tank was a first time installation (which was allowed at one time). If so, there is a strong likelihood that the property has a deed covenant or other restriction

concerning the use of the structure and/or upgrading from the holding tank. In such cases, the new system would need to meet first time criteria.

DHE Position Pertaining to Design Flows for Recreation Camps and Limited Operation Hunting Camps

The Division has considered the design flows listed in the SSWD Rules for Rental Cabins and Cottages and determined that 50 gallons per day per bed plus 15 gallons per day per employee may be excessive for some recreational/sporting camp operations. Therefore, we have specifically highlighted two types of operations and assigned design flows acceptable for each operation. Any other establishment shall be required to utilize the design flows listed in the Rules.

Recreation Camp: A structure or group of structures established to lodge sportspersons for the specific purpose of hunting and/or fishing.

Recreation/Sporting Camps have the potential to operate year-round with a variety of use patterns. During certain periods, the sportsperson may be at the camp for a very limited time, thus minimally utilizing the amenities, which means less wastewater disposal. However, the use of the facilities may increase at other times and therefore, generate more wastewater. Because of the fluctuations of use, the Division has determined the design flow for a recreational camp used solely for hunting and/or fishing shall be 45 gpd per owner/occupant plus 30 gpd per bed/sportsperson.

Limited Operation Hunting Camp: A structure or group of structures established to lodge sportspersons for the specific purpose of bear hunting. The camp's use is restricted to a period not to exceed four consecutive weeks.

As bear-hunting camps are a limited use, restricted period operation, the Division has determined that the generated wastewater is



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typically substantially less than a year-round operation. Therefore, we have determined the design flows for these operations shall be 45 gpd per owner/occupant plus 15 gpd per bed/hunter.

Program Manager Position

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the position of Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program's Program Manager remains vacant. The Division anticipates that the position will be re-advertised in mid-October.

HHE-200 Forms Available in AutoCAD

The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program has converted the HHE-200 Form, pages 1, 2 and 3, to AutoCAD *.dwg format. The CAD files are available for asking on a floppy disk, and they can be found on our web site. Page 1 (copy attached) has been updated, with five minor changes.

The changes are (1) Design flow correctly references Section 5 of the Rules, (2) Observation hole elevation has been deleted, (3) "Pumping" has been changed to "Effluent/Ejector Pump", (4) Current Use has been added to the "Disposal System to Serve" block, and (5) a note has been added advising that changes from the design should be confirmed with the Site Evaluator.

This version, dated 8/01, is the current version and supersedes all prior versions. It will be incorporated into the next printing of the rules.

New Web Site Address

The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program's web site has been migrated to a new server. The new URL is:

<http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/plumb/index.html>

Proper Use of SDR 35 Drainage Pipe

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion concerning the proper use of SDR 35 pipe for building drains and building sewers.

Under provisions of Table 14-1, SDR 35 pipe is allowed for use as an effluent line from the treatment tank to the disposal area, and as a distribution line within a disposal area. Plastic pipe used from the structure to the treatment tank must be Schedule 40 or stronger. SDR 35 pipe is not allowed between the structure and the treatment tank.

Proprietary Device Equivalency

In recent weeks, a debate has arisen concerning substitution of proprietary products and/or devices for those specified on HHE-200 Forms. Some of the more pertinent aspects of the discussions include whether parties other than the Site Evaluator have the right to make substitutions, particularly without the SE's knowledge; whether it matters if one device is substituted for another as long as they have equivalent sizing ratings; and whether it is a conflict of interest for an SE, LPI, or installer to recommend and/or require a specific product if she or he is also a distributor for the product. Another aspect of this issue is the role of the owner/applicant in deciding what product or device to use in the design.

The Division realizes that this is a complex issue, and wishes to resolve the debate to the satisfaction of all parties. Therefore, we are seeking representatives from the SE, LPI, and installer communities, and representatives of product manufacturers and distributors, to participate in a series of meetings this winter. Hopefully, during the meetings all of the affected parties can reach a consensus and resolve any potential conflicts. Interested persons should contact Clough Toppan, Division Director at clough.toppan@state.me.us or at (207) 287-5697.



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Table 2000.11 vs. Table 603.1

In June of 2000, The Division began allowing First Time System Variance points for improved effluent quality, via Table 1900.11. In recent weeks, the Division has received First Time System Variance Requests which claimed points from Table 1900.11, while reducing the disposal area footprint through use of Table 603.1. This is an incorrect application of Table 603.1.

The Division's intent in allowing the points for improved effluent quality was to acknowledge the lessened organic loading on the disposal area. Simply stated, Table 1900.11 granted points for the use of advanced treatment, **based upon pollutant removal efficiency**. The Division did not base the point award upon use of any specific device or process, **nor was it ever the Division's intent to award variance points based upon use of specific devices or processes**. Any device meeting the four performance ranges in Table 1900.11 would garner the appropriate points for the variance, regardless of what the specific device is.

The provisions of Section 604.0 (sizing disposal fields through an adjustment factor) of the Rules are not compatible with Table 1900.11. Specifically, one may not simultaneously take points from Table 1900.11 and reduce the size of the disposal area using table 603.1, nor do device – specific sizing reductions apply when using table 1900.11

New Products

The following products have been approved

since the last newsletter. For more information, contact the Division or the product distributor/manufacturer.

Miller Environmental Products, Inc.'s Universal Liner. Miller Environmental Products, Inc., Attn.: Jeff Miller, CEO/President, P. O. Box 334, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

Aeration Systems, OxyPro Advanced Treatment Unit. Aeration Systems, Attn.: Richard A. Sweet, 155 Gray Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105

Norweco Bio-Kinetic Wastewater Management System. Norweco, Attn.: Michael S. Price, R.S., 220 Republic Street, Norwalk, OH 44857-1196

Plastic Tubing Industries, Inc., Multi-Pipe Drainfield System. Plastic Tubing Industries, Inc., Attn.: Michael D. Maroschak, Pres., P. O. Box 607356, Orlando, FL 32860-7356

BioDiffuser Bio 2 and Bio 3. PSA Inc., Attn: Dick Bachelder, 71 Orchard Farm Road, York, Maine 03909

SeptiTech Combination UV Drip Hose System. SeptiTech, Attn: James Gray, 220 Lewiston Road, Gray, Maine 04039

Staff Roster

Vacant, Program Manager

[James Jacobsen](#), Engineered Plans and Products Review

[Jay Hardcastle](#), Site Evaluator Licensing Program

[Linda Robinson](#), Variances

[Brent Lawson](#), State Plumbing Inspector & Municipal Performance Review

[Dina Laflamme](#), Secretary

[Wendy Austin](#), Plumbing Permits & Data Entry

Site Evaluator Field Exam

As of this writing, the location, date, and time for the annual Site Evaluator Field Exam has not been determined. For more information, contact Jay Hardcastle, State Site Evaluator.