

**Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health,
Division of Health Engineering
Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program Newsletter
Volume 23, Issue #14 September, 2004
Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/eng/plumb/>**

Program Director's Message

February Code Changes on Temporary Hold

The Rule revisions discussed at the February 2004 Public Hearing will not go into effect in October as originally planned. Due to several factors, we did not proceed with formal rulemaking after the hearing within the 120 day period specified in the Administrative Procedures Act. These changes will be re-introduced at a public hearing on October 26, 2004 at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta with some being dropped or modified based on the verbal and written comments received. Copies of the proposed changes will be mailed to LPIs, SEs, installers, and inspectors. Details for the hearing location and time will be posted on our web site and publish in newspapers.

Underground Injection Control Rules

The Department of Environmental Protection will be proceeding with a major revision to the UIC Rules, the first since 1983. The UIC rules cover the subsurface disposal of all wastes not covered by the Subsurface Rules, primarily industrial and process wastes with characteristics dissimilar to domestic wastewater. Sections 203.1 and 203.2 of the Subsurface Rules CMR 241 presently define which Agency has jurisdiction over a particular waste. Questions specific to the UIC Program should be directed to Erich D. Kluck, Division of Water Resource Management, Maine DEP, 287-7814 or erich.d.kluck@maine.gov.

Paper to be Presented

Russell Martin, Program Director will be presenting a paper titled "The Maine Experience – Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Trends – 1984 to 2003" at the 13th Annual National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Technical Education Conference and Exposition, to be held the week of November 7th in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Copies of the paper will be available from our website after the conference, and Russell will be available to make presentations on the material.

Legislation

The Department will propose to modify the statutory provision, 30A § 4222. Approving own work forbidden., that prohibits a local plumbing inspector from inspecting their own work. The new wording will also prohibit the LPI from providing any products or services relative to a plumbing job or subsurface system installation for which they have issued a permit. Contact Russell Martin, Program Director if you have questions.

Jennifer Sanborn Joins the Division as Environmental Specialist II

The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program is pleased to welcome Jennifer Sanborn to our ranks. Jennifer's principal responsibilities are reviewing applications for State-level variances, applications for minimum lot size waivers, seasonal conversions, eating and lodging establishments, and projects for the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC).

She started her new position on June 7th and has replaced Linda Robinson, who has transferred to the Drinking Water Program. She comes to the Program after having spent four years in the United States Air

Force and seven years in school. She has an Associates Degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography from Southern Maine Technical College and a Bachelors of Science Degree in Ecology and Environmental Science with a focus in Natural History and a minor in Biology from the University of Maine at Orono. So far, she says she loves the job and is looking forward to meeting as many of you as she can. She loves to be outside so if any of you need any assistance out in the field, feel free to give her a call (287-5687)!

Site Evaluator Field Exam

On September 15, 2004 the Division gave the second part (Field Exam) of the Site Evaluator licensing exam, which was held at a site off Route 11 in Corinth. Seven persons took the exam, as they had passed the Site Evaluator written exam.

The Field Exam was followed on September 16, 2004 by the Maine Association of Site Evaluators (MASE) Annual Field Seminar which was attended by about 50 licensed Site Evaluators. Also, members of the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists and several Federal employees from Natural Resource Conservation Services joined MASE for a review of the soil test pits.

Policy for Replacement of Existing Licensed Overboard Discharges with Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems.

The Division has released a policy regarding the replacement of overboard discharges with onsite sewage disposal systems. Briefly, the decision to recommend replacement of an existing overboard discharge with a subsurface wastewater disposal system rests with the Licensed Site Evaluator, who must take into consideration a variety of characteristics which will vary from site to site. The LSE must exercise their professional judgment when recommending the installation of a subsurface wastewater disposal system that does not meet the minimum criteria set by the rules. The Division provides guidance for these situations, including minimum setback, soil, and separation criteria. A copy of the policy, #09-04-010 is available for downloading by [clicking here](#).

Forthcoming Web Site Feature

By the end of September a new interactive feature will be available for Site Evaluators, Local Plumbing Inspectors, and other interested parties. The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program is adding a message board to our web site. On this message board, one can post questions and answers. The hope is that the message board would be used by SEs, LPIs, and contractors to discuss problems with their peers and find solutions.

Incomplete Applications Cause Delays

This past spring and summer, the Division has received an unusually large number of incomplete and/or erroneous applications. As we all know, Maine's building season is fairly short, and any delay in the process of obtaining system approval (i.e., variances, eating place reviews, etc.) can cause untold inconvenience, especially to the applicants. When we receive an application for review that is incomplete or has errors in the design, we can not process it, and the review is essentially on hold until the problem is resolved.

Some of the more frequently encountered problems which the Site Evaluators can control, in no particular order, are:

Inadequate separation from public water supply wells (must be 300 feet).

Vague site diagrams, lacking significant detail.

Incorrect disposal area sizing calculations.

Site plan and construction drawings that do not match the stated scale.

Inadequate vertical separation from limiting factors, particularly on Profiles 5 and 6 soils.

Various sections of Page 1 of the HHE-200 Form are left blank.

Use of outdated Page 1 of the HHE-200 Form. The current version is contained in the Rules and is also available for downloading on our web site.

Other common problems are missing pages in the application, lack of signatures on variance applications, illegible faxed applications, and proposals which exceed the design capacity. These problems generally originate with the applicants. Since Site Evaluators and Local Plumbing Inspectors are “front line”, we ask that you impress upon your clients/applicants the importance of submitting complete, legible applications.

Incomplete Permits

The Division reminds LPIs that when submitting permits to the Division, when the permits required a variance (State or Local), a copy of the Variance Request Form (New and Replacement) with all of the necessary signatures must be attached. This is required to ensure a complete copy of the permit and its paperwork is archived and recorded on microfiche.

Health Engineering Move

The Division of Health Engineering will be moving to the Key Bank building in downtown Augusta sometime before January 1, 2005. It is likely that normal business will be interrupted for several days while the move is completed. Further details will be posted on the web site when finalized.

New Products

The following products have been approved since the previous newsletter was published. Contact James Jacobsen with any questions.

EZ Tanks Septic Tank Kits

The EZ Tanks Septic Tank Kits consist of copolymer polypropylene septic tank kits which are assembled on site by the installer(s). The EZ Tanks Septic Tank Kits are designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal areas. Contact; EZ Tanks, Inc., Attn.: Harley Pattee, President, P. O. Box 692185, Orlando, FL 32869-2185. 1-407-477-0737.

Polylok PL-68 Effluent Filter

The Polylok PL-68 Effluent Filter consists of a plastic slotted filter. The Polylok PL-68 Effluent Filter is designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal areas and drip irrigation disposal areas. Contact: Polylok Inc., Attn. Betsy Chaffet, 173 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. 1-800-765-9565.

Wardwell Construction and Trucking Company precast septic tanks

The Wardwell Construction and Trucking Company precast septic tanks consist of a two piece casting with butyl rubber seals, integral baffles, and a 1,000 gallon capacity. The Wardwell Construction and Trucking Company precast septic tanks are designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal systems. Contact: Wardwell Construction and Trucking Company, Attn.: Jason Wardwell, P. O. Box 198, Orland, Maine 04472. 1-207-469-7000.

Registration Modification, Presby Enviro-Septic

The modification consists of revising the separation distance, from the seasonal high groundwater table or other limiting factor to the bottom of the sand layer beneath the products, to the bottom of the Enviro-Septics themselves. Contact: Presby Environmental, Inc., Attn.: David W. Presby, President, P. O. Box 617, Sugar Hill, New Hampshire 03585. 1-800-473-5298.

Registration Modification, Knight Treatment Systems White Knight

Knight Treatment Systems White Knight is now allowed a design flow reduction adjustment of 50%, provided that it is installed, operated, and maintained in conformance with the manufacturer's directions and Purchase/Installation Agreement. Contact: Septic Preservation Services, Attn. Dana Darling, V.P., 85 E Street, South Portland, ME 04106. 1-877-378-4279.

Product Registration, Screened Fill Material, Tupper Construction, Durham

On the basis of a site inspection on April 27, 2004, the Division has determined that the screened fill material then stockpiled at Tupper Construction's facility is acceptable for use in the State of Maine pursuant to Section 804.0 of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules. Material screened to the same specification as witnessed by Division Staff would also be acceptable. Contact: Tupper Construction, Attn.: Robert Tupper, 190 Pinkham Brook Road, Durham, ME 04222. 1-207-353-8365.