

**LAWS AND RULES**

**FOR**

**SEWAGE TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

**15A NCAC 18A .1900**

**NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ON-SITE WASTEWATER SECTION**

**EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 1982  
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ARTICLE 11 OF CHAPTER 130A  
OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA

**WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

§ 130A-333. **Purpose**

The General Assembly finds and declares that continued installation, at a rapidly and constantly accelerating rate, of septic tank systems and other types of wastewater systems in a faulty or improper manner and in areas where unsuitable soil and population density adversely affect the efficiency and functioning of these systems has a detrimental affect on the public health and environment through contamination of land, groundwater and surface waters. Recognizing, however, that wastewater can be rendered ecologically safe and the public health protected if methods of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal are properly regulated and recognizing that wastewater collection, treatment and disposal will continue to be necessary to meet the needs of an expanding population, the General Assembly intends to ensure the regulation of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems so that these systems may continue to be used, where appropriate, without jeopardizing the public health.

§ 130A-334. **Definitions**

The following definitions shall apply throughout this Article:

- (1) “Construction” means any work at the site of placement done for the purpose of preparing a residence, place of business or place of public assembly for initial occupancy, or subsequent additions or modifications which increase sewage flow.
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 462, s. 18, effective June 24, 1985.
- (2a) “Industrial process wastewater” means any water-carried waste resulting from any process of industry, manufacture, trade, or business.
- (3) “Location” means the initial placement for occupancy of a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly.
- (3)(a) “Maintenance” means normal or routine maintenance including replacement of broken pipes, cleaning, or adjustment to an existing wastewater system.
- (4), (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 462, s. 18.
- (6) “Place of business” means a store, warehouse, manufacturing establishment, place of amusement or recreation, service station, office building, or any other place where people work.
- (7) “Place of public assembly” means a fairground, auditorium, stadium, church, campground, theater, or any other place where people assemble.
- (8) “Public or community wastewater system” means a single system of wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal owned and operated by a sanitary district, a metropolitan sewage district, a water and sewer authority, a county or municipality or a public utility.
- (9) “Relocation” means the displacement of a residence or place of business from one site to another.
- (9a) “Repair” means the extension, alteration, replacement, or relocation of existing components of a wastewater system.
- (10) “Residence” means a private home, dwelling unit in a multiple family structure, hotel, motel, summer camp, labor work camp, manufactured home, institution, or

any other place where people reside.

- (11) Repealed by Session Law 1992, c. 944, s. 3, effective July 14, 1992.
- (12) “Septic tank system” means a subsurface wastewater system consisting of a settling tank and a subsurface disposal field.
- (13) “Sewage” means the liquid and solid human body waste, and liquid waste generated by water-using fixtures and appliances, including those associated with foodhandling. The term does not include industrial process wastewater or sewage that is combined with industrial process wastewater.
- (14) “Wastewater” means any sewage or industrial process wastewater discharged, transmitted, or collected from a residence, place of business, place of public assembly, or other places into a wastewater system.
- (15) “Wastewater system” means a system of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal, including a privy, septic tank system, public or community wastewater system, wastewater reuse or recycle system, mechanical or biological wastewater treatment system, any other similar system, and any chemical toilet used only for human waste.

§ 130A-335 **Wastewater collection, treatment and disposal; rules.**

(a) A person owning or controlling a residence, place of business or a place of public assembly shall provide a wastewater system. A wastewater system may include components for collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater.

(b) All wastewater systems shall be regulated by the Department under rules adopted by the Commission except for the following wastewater systems that shall be regulated by the Department under rules adopted by the Environmental Management Commission:

- (1) Wastewater systems designed to discharge effluent to the land surface or surface waters.
- (2) Wastewater systems designed for groundwater remediation, groundwater injection, or landfill leachate collection and disposal.
- (3) Wastewater systems designed for the complete recycle or reuse of industrial process wastewater.

(c) A wastewater system subject to approval under rules of the Commission shall be reviewed and approved under rules of a local board of health in the following circumstances:

- (1) The local board of health, on its own motion, has requested the Department to review its proposed rules concerning wastewater systems; and
- (2) The local board of health has adopted by reference the wastewater system rules adopted by the Commission, with any more stringent modifications or additions deemed necessary by the local board of health to protect the public health; and
- (3) The Department has found that the rules of the local board of health concerning wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems are at least as stringent as rules adopted by the Commission and are sufficient and necessary to safeguard the public health.

(d) The Department may, upon its own motion, upon the request of a local board of health or upon the request of a citizen of an affected county, review its findings under subsection (c) of this section. The Department shall review its findings under subsection (c) of this section upon modification by the Commission of the rules applicable to wastewater systems. The Department may deny, suspend, or revoke the approval of local board of health wastewater system rules upon a finding that the local wastewater rules are not as stringent as rules adopted by the Commission, are not sufficient and necessary to safeguard the public health, or are not being enforced.

Suspension and revocation of approval shall be in accordance with G.S. 130A-23.

(e) The rules of the Commission and the rules of the local board of health shall address at least the following: Wastewater characteristics; Design unit; Design capacity; Design volume; Criteria for the design, installation, operation, maintenance and performance of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems; Soil morphology and drainage; Topography and landscape position; Depth to seasonally high water table, rock, and water impeding formations; Proximity to water supply wells, shellfish waters, estuaries, marshes, wetlands, areas subject to frequent flooding, streams, lakes, swamps, and other bodies of surface or ground waters; Density of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems in a geographical area; Requirements for issuance, suspension and revocation of permits; and Other factors which affect the effective operation and performance of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems. The rules regarding required design capacity and required design volume for wastewater systems shall provide that exceptions may be granted upon a showing that a system is adequate to meet actual daily water consumption.

(f) The rules of the Commission and the rules of the local board of health shall classify sanitary systems of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal according to size, type of treatment and any other appropriate factors. The rules shall provide construction requirements, standards for operation and ownership requirements for each classification of systems of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal in order to prevent, as far as reasonably possible, any contamination of the land, groundwater and surface waters. The Department and local health departments may impose conditions on the issuance of permits and may revoke the permits for failure of the system to satisfy the conditions, the rules or this Article. The permits shall be valid for a period prescribed by the rules, except that improvement permits shall be valid for a period of five years, and may be renewed upon a showing satisfactory to the Department or the local health department that the system is in compliance with the current rules and this Article. The period of time for which the permit is valid and a statement that the permit is subject to revocation if site plans or the intended use change shall be displayed prominently on both the application form for the permit and the permit.

(g) Prior to denial of an improvement permit, the local health department shall advise the applicant of possible site modifications or alternative systems, and shall provide a brief description of those systems. When an improvement permit is denied, the local health department shall issue the site evaluation in writing stating the reasons for the unsuitable classification. The evaluation shall also inform the applicant of the right to an informal review by the Department, the right to appeal under G.S. 130A-24, and to have the appeal held in the county in which the site for which the improvement permit was requested is located.

(h) It shall be unlawful to discharge sewage or other waste from chemical or portable toilets used for human waste except into a wastewater system which has been approved by the Department.

§ 130A-336. **Improvement permit required.**

(a) No person shall commence or assist in the construction, location or relocation of a residence, place of business or place of public assembly in an area not served by an approved wastewater system unless an improvement permit is obtained from the local health department. This requirement shall not apply to a residence exhibited for sale or stored for later sale and intended to be located at another site after sale.

(b) The local health department shall issue an improvement permit authorizing work to proceed and the installation or repair of a wastewater system when it has determined after a field investigation that the system can be installed and operated in compliance with this Article and

Rules adopted pursuant to this Article. No person shall commence or assist in the installation, construction, or repair of a wastewater system unless an improvement permit has been obtained from the Department or the local health department. No improvement permit shall be required for maintenance of a wastewater system. The Department and the local health department may impose conditions on the issuance of an improvement permit.

(c) Unless the Commission otherwise provides by rule, plans, and specifications for all wastewater systems designed for the collection, treatment, and disposal of industrial process wastewater shall be reviewed and approved by the Department prior to issuance of an improvement permit by the local health department.

§ 130A-337. **Inspection; operation permit or certificate of completion required.**

(a) No system of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal shall be covered or placed into use by a person until an inspection by the local health department has determined that the system has been installed or repaired in accordance with any conditions of the improvement permit, the rules and this Article.

(b) Upon determining that the system is properly installed or repaired and that the system is capable of being operated in accordance with the conditions of the improvement permit, the rules, this Article and any conditions to be imposed in the operation permit, the rules, this Article, and any conditions to be imposed in the operation permit, the local health department shall issue an operation permit authorizing the residence, place of business or place of public assembly to be occupied and for the system to be placed into use. However, if the system is limited to a single septic tank system without a pump or other appurtenances serving a single one-family dwelling, then a certificate of completion shall be issued instead of an operation permit; also, if the system is limited to a single septic tank system without a pump or other appurtenances serving a single residence other than a one-family dwelling, or serving a place of business or a place of public assembly and having a design daily flow of not more than 480 gallons, then a certificate of completion shall be issued instead of an operation permit. A certificate of completion shall be issued when the septic tank system is properly installed or repaired and is capable of being operated in accordance with the conditions of the improvement permit, the rules and this Article.

(c) Upon determination that an existing wastewater system has a valid operation permit or a valid certificate of completion and is operating properly in a manufactured home park, the local health department shall issue authorization in writing for a manufactured home to be connected to the existing system and to be occupied. Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-336, an improvement permit is not required for the connection of a manufactured home to an existing system with a valid operation permit or a valid certificate of completion in a manufactured home park.

(d) No person shall occupy a residence, place of business or place of public assembly, or place a wastewater system into use or reuse for a residence, place of business or place of public assembly until an operation permit or a certificate of completion has been issued or authorization has been obtained pursuant to G.S. 130A-337(c).

§ 130A-338. **Improvement permit or authorization required before other permits to be issued.**

Where construction, location or relocation is proposed to be done upon a residence, place of business or place of public assembly, no permit required for electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning or other construction, location or relocation activity under any provision of general or special law shall be issued until an improvement permit has been issued under G.S. 130A-336 or authorization has been obtained under G.S. 130A-337(c).

§ 130A-339. **Limitation on electrical service.**

No person shall allow permanent electrical service to a residence, place of business or place of public assembly upon construction, location or relocation until the official electrical inspector with jurisdiction as provided in G.S. 143-143.2 certifies to the electrical supplier that the required improvement permit and an operation permit, a certificate of completion or authorization under G.S. 130A-337(c) has been obtained. Temporary electrical service necessary for constructing a residence, place of business or place of public assembly can be provided under compliance with G.S. 130A-338.

§ 130A-340. **Review procedures and appeals.**

The Department, upon request by an applicant for an improvement permit, shall provide a technical review of any scientific data and system design submitted by the applicant. The data and system design shall be evaluated by professional peers of those who prepared the data and system design. The results of the technical review shall be available prior to a decision by the local health department and shall not affect an applicant's right to a contested hearing under Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

§ 130A-341. **Consideration of a site with existing fill.**

Upon application to the local health department, a site that has existing fill, including one on which fill material was placed prior to July 1, 1977, and that has sand or loamy sand for a depth of at least 36 inches below the existing ground surface, shall be evaluated for an on-site sewage system. The Commission for Health Services shall adopt rules to implement this Section.

§ 130A-342. **Aerobic systems.**

(a) Individual aerobic sewage treatment plants that are approved and listed in accordance with the standards adopted by the National Sanitation Foundation, Inc. for Class I sewage treatment plants as set out in Standard 40, as amended, shall be permitted under rules promulgated by the Commission. The Commission may establish standards in addition to those set by the National Sanitation Foundation, Inc.

(b) A permitted plant shall be operated and maintained by a certified wastewater treatment facility operator employed by or under contract to the county in which the plant is located.

(c) The performance of individual aerobic treatment plans is to be documented by the counties and sent to the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

§ 130A-343. **Experimental and innovative systems permitted.**

(a) The Commission shall adopt rules for the approval and permitting of experimental and innovative wastewater systems. The rules shall address the criteria to be considered prior to issuing a permit for such a system, requirements for preliminary design plans and specifications that must be submitted, methodology to be used, standards for monitoring and evaluating the system, research evaluation of the system, the plan of work for monitoring system performance and maintenance, and any additional matters the Commission deems appropriate.

(b) The Commission shall adopt rules governing the operation and maintenance of experimental and innovative wastewater systems approved and permitted under subsection (a) of this section.

§ 130A-344. **North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Systems Institute.**

(a) The North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Systems Institute is created. The Department shall provide staff for the Institute. The Institute shall gather information, study problems, and

prepare reports on sanitary sewage systems.

(b) The North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Systems Institute shall have a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members. The members shall serve on a voluntary basis at no cost to the State. The members shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) One member from the On-Site Sewage Program of the Department, appointed by the Governor.
- (2) One member who is a local health director, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (3) One member who is an environmental health supervisor from a local health department, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) One member who is an environmental health specialist, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (5) Four members who are in the sanitary sewage system business, one of whom is a manufacturer, one of whom is a supplier, one of whom is a pumper or installer, and one of whom is an operator, by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (6) One member who is actively involved with residential development in North Carolina or has extensive experience in the field of residential development, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (7) One member from the public at large, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (8) The President or Executive Director of the North Carolina Septic Tank Association, Inc., appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(c) Legislative appointments shall be made in accordance with G.S. 120-121. A vacancy in a legislative appointment shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122.

(d) Each member shall serve for a two-year term that begins on July 1 of an odd-numbered year and ends on June 30 of the next odd-numbered year. Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of the Board that occur due to resignation, dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the balance of the unexpired term and shall be made by the same appointing authority that made the initial appointment.

(e) The member from the North Carolina Septic Tank Associations, Inc., shall serve as Chair of the Board for the first two years after the Board is created. Thereafter, the Board shall elect a Chair annually at its first meeting of the year.

(f) The Board shall hold at least one meeting each year to conduct its business. Subsequent meetings shall be at the call of the Chair or a majority of the Board members. A majority of the members is a quorum.

§ 130A-345: Reserved for future codification purposes.

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## **SECTION .1900 - SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

Rules .1901 - .1968 of Title 15A Subchapter 18A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (T15A.18A .1901-.1968); has been transferred and recodified from Rules .1901 - .1968 of Title 10 Subchapter 10A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (T10.10A.1901-.1968), effective April 4, 1990.

- .1901 PURPOSE**
- .1902 PROPER DISPOSAL**
- .1903 DEFINITIONS**
- .1904 SEWAGE DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**
- .1905 PRIVY AND SEPTIC TANK CONSTRUCTION**
- .1906 PREFABRICATED TANKS**
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- .1908 SITE EVALUATION**
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- .1929 EXEMPTION**
- .1930 DISUSE OF SEWAGE SYSTEM**
- .1931 VIOLATIONS**
- .1932 CONFLICTING RULES REPEALED**
- .1933 SEVERABILITY**

*History Note: Statutory Authority G. S. 130-160; 166.23 through 166.28;  
Eff. July 1, 1977;  
Readopted Eff. December 5, 1977;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1982; March 31, 1981; June 30, 1980;  
Repealed Eff. July 1, 1982.*

## **.1934 SCOPE**

The rules contained in this Section shall govern the treatment and disposal of domestic type sewage from septic tank systems, privies, incinerating toilets, mechanical toilets, composting toilets, recycling toilets, or other such systems serving single or multiple-family residences, places of business, or places of public assembly, the effluent from which is designed not to discharge to the land surface or surface waters.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. December 1, 1990.*

## **.1935 DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply throughout this Section:

- (1) "Alluvial Soils" means stratified soils without distinct horizons, deposited by flood waters.
- (2) "Alternative System" means any approved ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system other than an approved privy or an approved septic tank system.
- (3) "Approved" means that which has been considered acceptable to the State or local health department.
- (4) "Approved Privy" means a fly-tight structure consisting of a pit, floor slab, and seat riser constructed in accordance with Rule .1959 of this Section.
- (5) "Approved Public or Community Sewage System" means a single system of sewage collection, treatment, and disposal owned and operated by a sanitary district, a metropolitan sewage district, a water and sewer authority, a county or municipality, or a public utility, constructed and operated in compliance with applicable requirements of the Division of Environmental Management.
- (6) "Areas subject to frequent flooding" means those areas inundated at a ten-year or less frequency and includes alluvial soils and areas subject to tidal or storm overwash.
- (7) "Collection sewer" means gravity flow pipelines, force mains, effluent supply lines, and appliances appurtenant thereto, used for conducting wastes from building drains to a treatment system or to a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system.
- (8) "Designated wetland" means an area on the land surface established under the provisions of the Coastal Area Management Act or the Federal Clean Water Act.
- (9) "Design unit" means one or more dwelling units, places of business, or places of public assembly on:
  - (a) a single lot or tract of land;
  - (b) multiple lots or tracts of land served by a common ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system; or
  - (c) a single lot or tract of land or multiple lots or tracts of land where the dwelling units, places of business or place of public assembly are under multiple ownership (e.g. condominiums) and are served by a ground absorption system or multiple ground absorption systems which are under common or joint ownership or control.
- (10) "Dwelling unit" means any room or group of rooms located within a structure and forming a single, habitable unit with facilities which are used or intended to be used for living, sleeping, bathing, toilet usage, cooking, and eating.
- (11) "Effluent" means the liquid discharge of a septic tank or other sewage treatment device.
- (12) "Ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system" means a system that utilizes the soil for the subsurface disposal of partially treated or treated sewage effluent.
- (13) "Horizon" means a layer of soil, approximately parallel to the surface, that has distinct characteristics produced by soil forming processes.
- (14) "Local health department" means any county, district, or other health department authorized to be organized under the General Statutes of North Carolina.

- (15) “Mean high water mark” means, for coastal waters having six inches or more lunar tidal influence, the average height of the high water over a 19 year period as may be ascertained from National Ocean Survey or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tide stations data or as otherwise determined under the provisions of the Coastal Area Management Act.
- (16) “Naturally occurring soil” means soil formed in place due to natural weathering processes and being unaltered by filling, removal, or other man-induced changes other than tillage.
- (17) “Nitrification field” means the area in which the nitrification lines are located.
- (18) “Nitrification lines” means approved pipe, specially designed porous blocks, or other approved materials which receive partially treated sewage effluent for distribution and absorption into the soil beneath the ground surface.
- (19) “Nitrification trench”, also referred to as a sewage absorption trench, means a ditch into which a single nitrification line is laid and covered by soil.
- (20) “Non-ground absorption sewage treatment system” means a facility for waste treatment designed not to discharge to the soil, land surface, or surface waters, including but not limited to, approved vault privies, incinerating toilets, mechanical toilets, composting toilets, chemical toilets, and recycling systems.
- (21) “Organic soils” means those organic mucks and peats consisting of more than 20 percent organic matter (by dry weight) and 18 inches or greater in thickness.
- (22) “Parent material” means the mineral matter that is in its present position through deposition by water, wind, gravity or by decomposition of rock and exposed at the land surface or overlain by soil or saprolite.
- (23) “Ped” means a unit of soil structure, such as an aggregate, crumb, prism, block, or granule formed by natural processes.
- (24) “Perched water table” means a saturated zone, generally above the natural water table, as identified by drainage mottles caused by a restrictive horizon.
- (25) “Person” means any individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, company, or unit of local government.
- (26) “Place of business” means any store, warehouse, manufacturing establishment, place of amusement or recreation, service station, foodhandling establishment, or any other place where people work or are served.
- (27) “Place of public assembly” means any fairground, auditorium, stadium, church, campground, theater, school, or any other place where people gather or congregate.
- (28) “Privy building” means and includes any and all buildings which are used for privacy in the acts of urination and defecation which are constructed over pit privies and are not connected to a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system or a public or community sewage system.
- (29) “Public management entity” means a city (G.S. 160A, Article 16), county (G.S. 153A, Article 15), interlocal contract (G.S. 153A, Article 16), joint management agency (G.S. 160A-461 -462), county service district (G.S. 153A, Article 16), county water and sewer district (G.S. 162A, Article 6), sanitary district (G.S. 130A, Article 2), water and sewer authority (G.S. 162A, Article 1), metropolitan water district (G.S. 162A, Article 4), metropolitan sewerage district (G.S. 162A, Article 5), public utility [G.S. 62-3(23)], county or district health department (G.S. 130A, Article 2), or other public entity legally authorized to operate and maintain on-site sewage systems.
- (30) “Relocation” means the displacement of a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly from one location to another.
- (31) “Repair area” means an area, either in its natural state or which is capable of being modified, consistent with these Rules, which is reserved for the installation of additional nitrification fields and is not covered with structures or impervious materials.
- (32) “Residence” means any home, hotel, motel, summer camp, labor work camp, mobile home, dwelling unit in a multiple-family structure, or any other place where people reside.

- (33) “Restrictive horizon” means a soil horizon that is capable of perching ground water or sewage effluent and that is brittle and strongly compacted or strongly cemented with iron, aluminum, silica, organic matter, or other compounds. Restrictive horizons may occur as fragipans, iron pans or organic pans, and are recognized by their resistance in excavation or in using a soil auger.
- (34) “Rock” means the consolidated or partially consolidated mineral matter or aggregate, including bedrock or weathered rock, not exhibiting the properties of soil and exposed at the land surface or overlain by soil or saprolite.
- (35) “Sanitary system of sewage treatment and disposal” means a complete system of sewage collection, treatment and disposal, including approved privies, septic tank systems, connection to public or community sewage systems, incinerators, mechanical toilets, composting toilets, recycling toilets, mechanical aeration systems, or other such systems.
- (36) “Saprolite” means thoroughly decomposed earthy mineral matter, weathered in place from igneous or metamorphic rock and usually overlain by soil and exhibiting some properties of rock.
- (37) “Septic tank” means a water-tight, covered receptacle designed for primary treatment of sewage and constructed to:
- (a) receive the discharge of sewage from a building;
  - (b) separate settleable and floating solids from the liquid;
  - (c) digest organic matter by anaerobic bacterial action;
  - (d) store digested solids through a period of detention; and
  - (e) allow clarified liquids to discharge for additional treatment and final disposal.
- (38) “Septic tank system” means a subsurface sanitary sewage system consisting of a septic tank and a subsurface disposal field.
- (39) “Sewage” means the liquid and solid human waste and liquid waste generated by water-using fixtures and appliances, including those associated with food handling. The term does not include industrial process wastewater or sewage that is combined with industrial process wastewater.
- (40) “Site” means the area in which the sewage treatment and disposal system is to be located and the area required to accommodate repairs and replacement of nitrification field and permit proper functioning of the system.
- (41) “Soil,” means the naturally occurring, unconsolidated mineral and organic material of the land surface developed from rock or other parent material and consists of sand, silt, and clay-sized particles and variable amounts of organic materials. Soil does not exhibit properties of rock or parent material. However, zones of transition in which soil characteristics predominate shall be considered soil.
- (42) “Soil structure” means the arrangement of primary soil particles into compound particles, peds, or clusters that separated by natural planes of weakness from adjoining aggregates.
- (43) “Soil textural classes” means soil classification based upon size distribution of mineral particles in the fine-earth fraction less than two millimeters in diameter. The fine-earth fraction includes sand (2.0 - 0.05 mm in size), silt (less than 0.05 mm - 0.002 mm or greater in size), and clay (less than 0.002 mm in size) particles. The specific textural classes are defined as follows and as shown in Soil Taxonomy, Appendix I, which is hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c).
- (a) “Sand” means soil material that contains 85 percent or more of sand; the percentage of silt plus 1.5 times the percentage of clay should not exceed 15.
  - (b) “Loamy sand” means soil material that contains at the upper limit 85 to 90 percent sand, and the percentage silt plus 1.5 times the percentage of clay is not less than 15; at the lower limit it contains not less than 70 to 85 percent sand, and the percentage of silt plus twice the percentage of clay does not exceed 30.
  - (c) “Sandy loam” means soil material that contains either 20 percent clay or less, and the

percentage of silt plus twice the percentage of clay exceeds 30, and contains 52 percent or more sand; or less than seven percent clay, less than 50 percent silt, and between 43 and 52 percent sand.

- (d) "Loam" means soil material that contains seven to 27 percent clay, 28 to 50 percent silt, and less than 52 percent sand.
- (e) "Silt loam" means soil material that contains 50 percent or more silt and 12 to 27 percent clay; or contains 50 to 80 percent silt and less than 12 percent clay.
- (f) "Silt" means soil material that contains 80 percent or more silt and less than 12 percent clay.
- (g) "Sandy clay loam" means soil material that contains 20 to 35 percent clay, less than 28 percent silt, and 45 percent or more sand.
- (h) "Clay loam" means soil material that contains 27 to 40 percent clay and less than 20 to 45 percent sand.
- (i) "Silty clay loam" means soil material that contains 27 to 40 percent clay and less than 20 percent sand.
- (j) "Sandy clay" means soil material that contains 35 percent or more clay and 45 percent or more sand.
- (k) "Silty clay" means soil material that contains 40 percent or more clay and 40 percent or more silt.
- (l) "Clay" means soil material that contains 40 percent or more clay, less than 45 percent sand, and less than 40 percent silt.
- (44) "State" means the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health.
- (45) "Stream," means a natural or manmade channel, including groundwater lowering ditches and devices, in which water flows or stands most of the year.
- (46) "Subsurface disposal" means the application of sewage effluent beneath the surface of the ground by distribution through approved nitrification lines.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990; August 1, 1988; April 1, 1985; January 1,  
1984;*

## **.1936 REQUIREMENTS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL**

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Repealed Eff. January 1, 1990.*

## **.1937 PERMITS**

(a) An Improvement Permit shall be required in accordance with G.S. 130A-336. Rule .1949 of this Section shall be used to determine whether subsequent additions or modifications increase sewage flow.

(b) The local health department shall issued an Improvement Permit only after it has determined that the system is designed and can be installed so as to meet the provisions of these Rules. An Improvement Permit shall be valid for 60 months from the date of issue. If the installation has not been completed during that time period, the information submitted in the application for an Improvement Permit is falsified or changed, or the site is altered, the permit shall become invalid. When an Improvement Permit has become invalid, the installation shall not be commenced or completed until a new Improvement Permit has been obtained.

(c) Application for an Improvement Permit shall be submitted to the local health department.

The application shall contain at least the following information: name of owner, mailing address, location of property, plat of property (if not readily available to local health department), type of facility, estimated sewage flow based on number of bedrooms or number of persons served, type of water supply, and signature of owner or authorized agent. The applicant shall be responsible for notifying the local health department of any designated wetland.

(d) Prior to the issuance of an Improvement Permit for a sanitary sewage system to serve a condominium or other multiple-ownership development where the system will be under common or joint control, a draft agreement (tri-party) among the local health department, developer, and a non-profit, incorporate owners association shall be submitted to the local health department for approval. Prior to the issuance of an Operation Permit for a system requiring a tri-party agreement, the agreement shall be properly executed among the local health department, developer, and a non-profit, incorporated owners association and filed with the local register of deeds. The tri-party agreement shall address ownership, transfer of ownership, maintenance, repairs, operation, and the necessary funds for the continued satisfactory performance of the sanitary sewage system, including collection, treatment, disposal, and other appurtenances.

(e) No residence, place of business, or place of public assembly shall be occupied nor shall any sanitary sewage system be covered or placed into use until the local health department finds that the system is in compliance with Article 11 of G. S. Chapter 130A, these Rules and all conditions prescribed by the Improvement Permit, and issues a Certification of Completion or an Operation Permit. At the review frequency specified in Rule .1961, Table V(a) of this Section, the local health department shall determine whether a system with an Operation Permit is operating properly and complies with the conditions of the Operation Permit. The local health department may suspend or revoke the Operation Permit if it is determined that the system is not operating properly or is not in compliance with Article 11 of G.S. Chapter 130A, these Rules, and all conditions imposed by the Operation Permit.

(f) Upon determining that an existing sanitary sewage system has a valid Operation Permit or a valid Certificate of Completion and is operating satisfactorily in a mobile home park, the local health department shall issue a written authorization for a mobile home to be connected to the existing system and to be occupied.

(g) Any person other than the owner or controller of a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly, who engages in the business of constructing, installing, or repairing sanitary sewage systems shall register with the local health department in each county where he operates before constructing, installing, or repairing sanitary sewage systems.

(h) Systems which exceed 3,000 gallons per day and other systems which are required to be designed by a professional engineer shall be reinspected annually.

(i) The local health department shall prepare a written report with reference to the site and soil conditions required to be evaluated pursuant to this Section. When a permit is denied, the report shall be provided to the applicant. If modifications or alternatives are available, information shall be provided to the applicant. The report shall be signed and dated by the local (authorized) sanitarian.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);*

*Eff. July 1, 1982;*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; January 1, 1990; January 1, 1984.*

### **.1938 RESPONSIBILITIES**

(a) The design, construction, operation, and maintenance of sewage treatment and disposal systems, whether septic tank systems, privies or alternative systems, shall be the responsibility of the designer, owner, developer, installer, or user of the system as applicable.

(b) Actions of representatives of local health departments or the State engaged in the evaluation and determination of measures required to effect compliance with the provisions of this Section shall in no way be taken as a guarantee or warranty that sewage treatment and disposal systems approved and permitted will function in a satisfactory manner for any given period of time. Due to the development of clogging mats which adversely impact the life expectancy of normally functioning ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal systems and variables influencing systems function which are beyond the scope of these rules, no guarantee or warranty is implied or given that a sewage treatment and disposal system will function in a satisfactory manner for any specific period of time.

(c) Prior to issuance of an Improvement Permit, plans and specifications prepared by a person with a demonstrated knowledge of sanitary sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems, soil and rock characteristics, ground-water hydrology, and drainage systems may be required for review and approval by the local health department when there is an unsuitable soil or unsuitable characteristic and shall be required for:

- (1) alternative systems not specifically described in this Section, and
- (2) drainage systems serving two or more lots.

(d) Any sanitary sewage system which meets one or more of the following conditions shall be designed by a registered professional engineer:

- (1) The system is designed to handle over 3,000 gallons per day, as determined in Rule .1949(a) or (b) of this Section, except where the system is limited to an individual septic tank system serving an individual dwelling unit or several individual septic tank systems, each serving an individual dwelling unit.
- (2) The system requires pretreatment, other than by a conventional septic tank, before disposal.
- (3) The system requires use of sewage pumps prior to the septic tank or other pretreatment system, except for systems subject to the North Carolina Plumbing Code.
- (4) The system requires use of more than one pump or siphon.
- (5) The system includes a collection sewer, prior to the septic tank or other pretreatment system, which serves two or more buildings, except for systems subject to the North Carolina Plumbing Code.
- (6) The system includes structures which have not been pre-engineered.
- (7) Any other system serving a business or multi-family dwelling so specified by the local health department.

(e) An improvement permit shall not be issued unless the plans and specifications, including methods of operation and maintenance, are approved. The state shall review and approve plans and specifications for all systems serving a design unit with a design flow greater than 3,000 gallons per day, as determined in Rule .1949 (a) or (b) of this Section, except where the system is limited to an individual septic tank system serving an individual dwelling unit or several individual septic tank systems, each serving an individual dwelling unit. The state shall also review and approve any other system so specified by the local health department. Prior to issuance of the operation permit for a system designed by a registered professional engineer, the owner shall submit to the local health department a statement signed by a registered professional engineer stating that construction is complete and in accordance with approved plans and specifications and approved modifications. Periodic observations of construction and a final inspection for design compliance by the certifying registered professional engineer or his representative shall be required for this statement. The statement shall be affixed with the registered professional engineer's seal.

(f) Plans and specifications required to be prepared by a registered professional engineer shall contain all necessary information for construction of the system in accordance with applicable rules and laws and shall include at least one or more of the following, as determined to be applicable by the local health department or the State:

- (1) the engineer's seal, signature, and the date on all plans and the first sheet of specifications;
  - (2) a description of the facilities served and the calculations and basis for the design flow proposed;
  - (3) a site plan based on a surveyed plat showing all system components, public water supply sources within 500 feet, private water supplies and surface water supplies within 200 feet, water lines serving the project and within ten feet of all components, building foundations, basements, property lines, embankments, or cuts of two feet or more in vertical height, swimming pools, storm sewers, interceptor drains, surface drainage ditches, and adjacent nitrification fields;
  - (4) specifications describing all material to be used, methods of construction, means for assuring the quality and integrity of the finished product, and operation and maintenance procedures addressing requirement for the system operator, inspection schedules, residuals management provisions, process and performance monitoring schedules, and provisions for maintaining mechanical components and nitrification field vegetative cover;
  - (5) plan and profile drawings for collection sewers, force mains and supply lines, showing pipe diameter, depth of cover, cleanout and manhole locations, invert and ground surface elevations, valves and other appurtenances, lateral connections, proximity to utilities and pertinent features such as wells, water lines, storm drains, surface waters, structures, roads, and other trafficked areas;
  - (6) plans for all tanks, showing capacity, invert and ground elevations, access manholes, inlet and outlet details, and plans for built-in-place or nonstate-approved, precast tanks, also showing dimensions, reinforcement details, liquid depth, and other pertinent construction features;
  - (7) calculations for pump or siphon sizing, pump curves, and plan and profile drawings for lift stations and effluent dosing tanks, showing anti-buoyancy provisions, pump or siphon locations, discharge piping, valves, vents, pump controls, pump removal system, electrical connection details, and activation levels for pumps or siphons and high-water alarms;
  - (8) plan and profile drawings for wastewater treatment plans and other pretreatment systems, including cross-section views of all relevant system components, and data and contact lists from comparable facilities for any non-standard systems.
  - (9) plans for nitrification field and repair area, showing the following:
    - (A) field locations with existing and final relative contour lines based on field measurements at intervals not exceeding two feet or spot elevations if field areas are essentially flat or of uniform grade;
    - (B) field layout, pipe sizes, length, spacing, connection and cleanout details, invert elevations of flow distribution devices and laterals, valves, and appurtenances;
    - (C) trench plan and profile drawings and flow distribution device details;
    - (D) location and design of associated surface and groundwater drainage systems; and
  - (10) any other information required by the local health department or the State.
- (g) The entire sanitary sewage system shall be on property owned or controlled by the person owning or controlling the system. Necessary easements shall be obtained permitting the use and unlimited access for inspection and maintenance of all portions of the system to which the owner and operator do not hold undisputed title. Easements shall remain valid as long as the system is required and shall be recorded with the county register of deeds.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
 Eff. July 1, 1982;  
 Amended Eff. January 1, 1990; April 1, 1985.*

### **.1939 SITE EVALUATION**

(a) The local health department shall investigate each proposed site. The investigation shall include the evaluation of the following factors:

- (1) topography and landscape position;
- (2) soil characteristics (morphology);
- (3) soil wetness;
- (4) soil depth;
- (5) restrictive horizons; and
- (6) available space.

(b) Soil profiles shall be evaluated at the site by borings or other means of excavation to at least 48 inches or to an UNSUITABLE characteristic and a determination shall be made as to the suitability of the soil to treat and absorb septic tank effluent. Applicants may be required to dig pits when necessary for proper evaluation of the soil at the site.

(c) Site evaluations shall be made in accordance with Rules .1940-.1948 of this Section. Based on this evaluation, each of the factors listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule shall be classified as SUITABLE (S), PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE (PS), or UNSUITABLE (U).

(d) The local health department shall determine the long-term acceptance rate to be used for sites classified SUITABLE OR PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE in accordance with these rules.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

### **.1940 TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE POSITION**

(a) Uniform slopes under 15 percent shall be considered SUITABLE with respect to topography.

(b) Uniform slopes between 15 percent and 30 percent shall be considered PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE with respect to topography.

(c) Slopes greater than 30 percent shall be considered UNSUITABLE as to topography. Slopes greater than 30 percent may be reclassified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE after an investigation indicates that a modified system may be installed in accordance with Rule .1956 of this Section; however, slopes greater than 65 percent shall not be reclassified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE.

(d) Complex slope patterns and slopes dissected by gullies and ravines shall be considered UNSUITABLE with respect to topography.

(e) Depressions shall be considered UNSUITABLE with respect to landscape position except when the site complies essentially with the requirements of this Section and is specifically approved by the local health department.

(f) The surface area on or around a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system shall be landscaped to provide adequate drainage if directed by the local health department. The interception of perched or lateral ground-water movement shall be provided where necessary to prevent soil saturation on or around the ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system.

(g) A designated wetland shall be considered UNSUITABLE with respect to landscape position, unless the proposed use is specifically approved in writing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

## **.1941 SOIL CHARACTERISTICS (MORPHOLOGY)**

(a) The soil characteristics which shall be evaluated by the local health department are as follows:

- (1) Texture - The relative proportions of sand, silt, and clay sized mineral particles in the fine-earth fraction of the soil are referred to as soil texture. The texture of the different horizons of soils shall be classified into four general groups and 12 soil textural classes based upon the relative proportions of sand, silt, and clay sized mineral particles.
  - (A) SOIL GROUP I - SANDY TEXTURE SOILS. The sandy group includes the sand and loamy sand soil textural classes and shall be considered SUITABLE with respect to texture.
  - (B) SOIL GROUP II - COARSE LOAMY TEXTURE SOILS. The coarse loamy group includes sandy loam and loam soil textural classes and shall be considered SUITABLE with respect to texture.
  - (C) SOIL GROUP III - FINE LOAMY TEXTURE SOILS. The fine loamy group includes silt, silt loam, sandy clay loam, clay loam, and silty clay loam textural classes and shall be considered PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE with respect to texture.
  - (D) SOIL GROUP IV - CLAYEY TEXTURE SOILS. The clayey group include sandy clay, silty clay, and clay textural classes and shall be considered PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE with respect to texture.
  - (E) The soil textural class shall be determined in the field by hand texturing samples of each soil horizon in the soil profile using the following criteria:
    - (i) Sand: Sand has a gritty feel, does not stain the fingers, and does not form a ribbon or ball when wet or moist.
    - (ii) Loamy Sand: Loamy sand has a gritty feel, stains the fingers (silt and clay), forms a weak ball, and cannot be handled without breaking.
    - (iii) Sandy Loam: Sandy loam has a gritty feel and forms a ball that can be picked up with the fingers and handled with care without breaking.
    - (iv) Loam: Loam may have a sticky gritty feel but does not show a fingerprint and forms only short ribbons of from 0.25 inch to 0.50 inch in length. Loam will form a ball that can be handled without breaking.
    - (v) Silt Loam: Silt loam has a floury feel when moist and will show a fingerprint but will not ribbon and forms only a weak ball.
    - (vi) Silt: Silt has a floury feel when moist and sticky when wet but will not ribbon and forms a ball that will tolerate some handling.
    - (vii) Sandy Clay Loam: Sandy clay loam has a gritty feel but contains enough clay to form a firm ball and may ribbon to form 0.75-inch to one-inch long pieces.
    - (viii) Silty Clay Loam: Silty clay loam is sticky when moist and will ribbon from one to two inches. Rubbing silty clay loam with the thumbnail produces a moderate sheen. Silty clay loam produces a distinct fingerprint.
    - (ix) Clay Loam: Clay loam is sticky when moist. Clay loam forms a thin ribbon of one to two inches in length and produces a slight sheen when rubbed with the thumbnail. Clay loam produced a nondistinct fingerprint.
    - (x) Sandy Clay: Sandy clay is plastic, gritty, and sticky when moist and forms a firm ball and produces a thin ribbon to over two inches in length.
    - (xi) Silty Clay: Silty clay is both plastic and sticky when moist and lacks any gritty feeling. Silty clay forms a firm ball and readily ribbons to over two inches in length.
    - (xii) Clay: Clay is both sticky and plastic when moist, produces a thin ribbon over two inches in length, produces a high sheen when rubbed with the thumbnail, and forms a strong ball resistant to breaking.

- (F) The Department may substitute laboratory determination of the soil textural class as defined in these rules by particle-size analysis of the fine-earth fraction (less than 2.0 mm in size) using the sand, silt, and clay particle sizes as defined in these rules for field testing when conducted in accordance with ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) D-422-procedures for sieve and hydrometer analyses which are hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). For fine loamy and clayey soils (Groups III and IV), the dispersion time shall be increased to 12 hours. Copies may be inspected in and copies obtained from the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7687.
- (2) Soil Structure - The following types of soil structure shall be evaluated:
- (A) CRUMB AND GRANULAR SOIL STRUCTURE - Soils which have crumb or granular structure shall be considered SUITABLE as to structure.
  - (B) BLOCK-LIKE SOIL STRUCTURE - Block-like Soil Structure with peds 2.5 cm (1 inch) or less in size shall be considered PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE as to structure. Block-like soil structure with peds greater than 2.5 cm (1 inch) in size within 36 inches of the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered UNSUITABLE as to structure.
  - (C) PLATY SOIL STRUCTURE - soils which have platy soil structure within 36 inches of the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered UNSUITABLE as to structure.
  - (D) PRISMATIC SOIL STRUCTURE - Soils which have prismatic soil structure within 36 inches of the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered UNSUITABLE as to structure.
  - (E) ABSENCE OF SOIL STRUCTURE - Soils which are single grained and exhibit no structural aggregates shall be considered SUITABLE as to structure. Soils which are massive and exhibit no structural peds within 36 inches from the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered UNSUITABLE as to structure.
  - (F) Structure shall be evaluated using Soil Taxonomy, Appendix I, which is hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). Copies may be inspected in, and copies obtained from, the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687.
- (3) Clay Mineralogy - Along with soil texture, the mineralogy of the clay-sized fraction determines the degree to which some soils swell when wetted and thereby affects the size and number of pores available for movement of sewage effluent through the soil. There are two major types of clays, including the 1:1 clays, such as Kaolinite, which do not shrink or swell extensively when dried or wetted; and the 2:1 clays, including mixed mineralogy clays, such as clays containing both Kaolinite and Montmorillonite that will shrink and swell when dried and wetted. The type of clay minerals in the clay-sized fraction shall be determined by a field evaluation of moist soil consistence or of wet soil consistence using Soil Taxonomy, Appendix I, which is hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). The Department may substitute laboratory determination of the expansive clay mineralogy as defined in these rules for field testing when conducted in accordance with ASTM D-4318, procedures A and B, for the determination of liquid limit, plastic limit, and plasticity index of soils. These procedures are hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). If the liquid limit exceeds 50 percent and the plasticity index exceeds 30, the soil shall be considered as having an expansive clay mineralogy. Copies may be inspected in, and copies obtained from, the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687.
- (A) SLIGHTLY EXPANSIVE CLAY MINERALOGY - Soils which have loose, very

friable, friable or firm moist soil consistence, or have slightly sticky to sticky or nonplastic, slightly plastic to plastic wet soil consistence, are considered to have predominantly 1:1 clay minerals and shall be considered **SUITABLE** as to clay mineralogy.

- (B) **EXPANSIVE CLAY MINERALOGY** - Soils which have either very firm or extremely firm moist soil consistence, or have either very sticky or very plastic wet soil consistence, are considered to have predominantly 2:1 clay minerals (including mixed mineralogy clays) and shall be considered **UNSUITABLE** as to clay mineralogy.

(4) **Organic Soils** - Organic soils shall be considered **UNSUITABLE**.

(b) Where the site is **UNSUITABLE** with respect to structure or clay mineralogy, it may be reclassified **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** after an investigation indicates that a modified or alternative system may be installed in accordance with Rule .1956 or Rule .1957 of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

#### **.1942 SOIL WETNESS CONDITIONS**

(a) Soil wetness conditions caused by a seasonal high water table, perched water table, tidal water, seasonally saturated soils or by lateral water movement shall be determined by observation of colors of chroma 2 or less (Munsell color chart) in mottles or a solid mass. If drainage modifications have been made, the Department may make a determination of the soil wetness conditions by direct observation of the water surface during periods of typically high water elevations. However, colors of chroma 2 or less which are relic from minerals of the parent material shall not be considered indicative of a soil wetness condition. Sites where soil wetness conditions are greater than 48 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered **SUITABLE** with respect to soil wetness. Sites where soil wetness conditions are between 36 inches and 48 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** with respect to soil wetness. Sites where soil wetness conditions are less than 36 inches below the naturally occurring soils surface shall be considered **UNSUITABLE** with respect to soil wetness.

(b) Where the site is **UNSUITABLE** with respect to soil wetness conditions, it may be reclassified **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** after an investigation indicates that a modified or alternative system can be installed in accordance with Rule .1956 or Rule .1957 of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

#### **.1943 SOIL DEPTH**

(a) Soil depths to saprolite, rock, or parent material greater than 48 inches shall be considered **SUITABLE** as to soil depth. Soil depths to saprolite, rock, or parent material between 36 inches and 48 inches shall be considered **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** as to soil depth. Soil depths to saprolite, rock, or parent material less than 36 inches shall be classified **UNSUITABLE** as to soil depth.

(b) Where the site is **UNSUITABLE** with respect to depth, it may be reclassified **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** after a special investigation indicates that a modified or alternative system can be installed in accordance with Rule .1956 or Rule .1957 of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);*

*Eff. July 1, 1982.*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 1988.*

#### **.1944 RESTRICTIVE HORIZONS**

(a) Soils in which restrictive horizons are three inches or more in thickness and at depths greater than 48 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface shall be considered **SUITABLE** as to depth to restrictive horizons. Soils in which restrictive horizons are three inches or more in thickness and at depths between 36 inches and 48 inches shall be considered **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** as to depth to restrictive horizons. Soils in which restrictive horizons are three inches or more in thickness and at depths less than 36 inches shall be considered **UNSUITABLE** as to depth to restrictive horizons.

(b) Where the site is **UNSUITABLE** with respect to restrictive horizons, it may be reclassified **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** after an investigation indicates that a modified or alternative system can be installed in accordance with Rules .1956 or .1957 of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);*  
*Eff. July 1, 1982;*  
*Amended Eff. January 1, 1990; October 1, 1983.*

#### **.1945 AVAILABLE SPACE**

(a) Sites shall have sufficient available space to permit the installation and proper functioning of ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal systems, based upon the square footage of nitrification field required for the long-term acceptance rate determined in accordance with these Rules.

(b) Sites shall have sufficient available space for a repair area separate from the area determined in Paragraph (a) of this Rule. The repair area shall be based upon the area of nitrification field required to accommodate the installation of a replacement system as specified in Rule .1955, .1956, or .1957 of this Section. Prior to issuance of the initial Improvement Permit for a site, the local health department shall designate on the permit the original system layout, the repair area, and the type of replacement system.

(c) The repair area requirement of Paragraph (b) of this Rule shall not apply to a lot or tract of land:

- (1) which is specifically described in a document on file with the local health department on July 1, 1982, or which is specifically described in a recorded deed or a recorded plat on January 1, 1983; and
- (2) which is of insufficient size to satisfy the repair area requirement of Paragraph (b) of this Rule, as determined by the local health department; and
- (3) on which a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system with a design daily flow of:
  - (A) no more than 480 gallons is to be installed; or
  - (B) more than 480 gallons is to be installed if application for an improvement permit which meets the requirements of Rule .1937(c) of this Subchapter is received by the local health department on or before April 1, 1983.

(d) Although a lot or tract of land is exempted under Paragraph (c) from the repair area requirement of Paragraph (b), the maximum feasible area, as determined by the local health department, shall be allocated for a repair area.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);*  
*Eff. July 1, 1982.*  
*Amended Eff. February 1, 1992; July 1, 1983; January 1, 1983.*

#### **.1946 OTHER APPLICABLE FACTORS**

The site evaluation should include consideration of any other applicable factors involving accepted public health principles, such as, but need not be limited to:

- (1) The proximity of a large-capacity water-supply well, the cone of influence of which would dictate a larger separation distance than the minimum distance specified in Rule .1950 of this Section;
- (2) The potential public health hazard due to possible failures of soil absorption systems when specifically identified, would dictate larger separation distances than the minimums specified in Rule .1950 and Rule .1955(m) of this Section;
- (3) The potential public health hazard of possible massive failures of soil absorption systems proposed to serve large numbers of residences, as in residential subdivisions or mobile home parks.
- (4) For sites serving systems designed to handle over 3,000 gallons per day, as determined in Rule .1949(a) or (b) of this Section, which include one or more nitrification fields with a design flow of greater than 1500 gallons per day, the applicant shall submit sufficient site-specific data to predict the height of the water table mound that will develop beneath the field (level sites) and the rate of lateral and vertical flow away from the nitrification trenches (sloping sites). The data submitted may include soil borings to depths greater than 48 inches, permeability and hydraulic conductivity measurements, water level readings, and other information determined to be necessary by the local health department or the State. The site shall be considered UNSUITABLE if the data indicate that the groundwater mound which will develop beneath the site cannot be maintained two feet or more below the bottom of the nitrification trenches or it is determined that effluent is likely to become exposed on the ground surface within, or adjacent to, the nitrification field.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

#### **.1947 DETERMINATION OF OVERALL SITE SUITABILITY**

All of the criteria in Rules .1940 through .1946 of this Section shall be determined to be SUITABLE, PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE, or UNSUITABLE, as indicated. If all criteria are classified the same, that classification will prevail. Where there is a variation in classification of the several criteria, the most limiting uncorrectable characteristics shall be used to determine the overall site classification.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

#### **.1948 SITE CLASSIFICATION**

(a) Sites classified as SUITABLE may be utilized for a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system consistent with these Rules. A suitable classification generally indicates soil and site conditions favorable for the operation of a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system or have slight limitations that are readily overcome by proper design and installation.

(b) Sites classified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE may be utilized for a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system consistent with these Rules but have moderate limitations. Sites classified Provisionally Suitable require some modifications and careful

planning, design, and installation in order for a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system to function satisfactorily.

(c) Sites classified UNSUITABLE have severe limitations for the installation and use of a properly functioning ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system. An improvement permit shall not be issued for a site which is classified as UNSUITABLE. However, where a site is UNSUITABLE, it may be reclassified PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE if a special investigation indicates that a modified or alternative system can be installed in accordance with Rules .1956 or .1957 of this Section.

(d) A site classified as UNSUITABLE may be used for a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system specifically identified in Rules .1955, .1956, or .1957 of this Section or a system approved under Rule .1969 if written documentation, including engineering, hydrogeologic, geologic or soil studies, indicates to the local health department that the proposed system can be expected to function satisfactorily. Such sites shall be reclassified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE if the local health department determines that the substantiating data indicate that:

- (1) a ground absorption system can be installed so that the effluent will be non-pathogenic, non-infectious, non-toxic, and non-hazardous;
- (2) the effluent will not contaminate groundwater or surface water; and
- (3) the effluent will not be exposed on the ground surface or be discharged to surface waters where it could come in contact with people, animals, or vectors.

The State shall review the substantiating data if requested by the local health department.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. April 1, 1993; January 1, 1990.*

**.1949 SEWAGE FLOW RATES FOR DESIGN UNITS**

(a) In determining the volume of sewage from dwelling units, the flow rate shall be 120 gallons per day per bedroom. The minimum volume of sewage from each dwelling unit shall be 240 gallons per day and each additional bedroom above two bedrooms shall increase the volume of sewage by 120 gallons per day. In determining the number of bedrooms in a dwelling unit, each bedroom and any other room or addition that can reasonably be expected to function as a bedroom shall be considered a bedroom for design purposes. When the occupancy of a dwelling unit exceeds two persons per bedroom, the volume of sewage shall be determined by the maximum occupancy at a rate of 60 gallons per person per day.

(b) Table No. I shall be used to determine the minimum design daily flow of sewage required calculating the design volume of sanitary sewage systems to serve selected types of establishments. The minimum design volume of sewage from any establishment shall be 100 gallons per day. Design of sewage treatment and disposal systems for establishments not identified in this Rule shall be determined using available flow data, water-using fixtures, occupancy or operation patterns, and other measured data.

TABLE NO. I

| <u>TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT</u>   | <u>DAILY FLOW FOR DESIGN</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Airports.....<br>(Also R.R. stations, bus terminals - Not including food service facilities) | 5 gal/passenger              |
| Barber Shops.....  | 50 gal/chair                 |
| Bars, Cocktail Lounges.....<br>(Not including food service)                                  | 20 gal/seat                  |
| Beauty Shops (Style Shops).....  | 125 gal/chair                |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Bowling Lanes .....   | 50 gal/lane   |
| Businesses (other than those listed elsewhere in this table).....                           | 25 gal/employee   |
| Camps   |   |
| Construction or Work Camps.....   | 60 gal/person<br>40 gal/person<br>(With chemical toilets)                           |
| Summer Camps.....   | 60 gal/person   |
| Campgrounds (with Comfort Station (Without water and sewer hookups).....                    | 100 gal/campsite  |
| Travel Trailer/Recreational Vehicle Park (With water and sewer hookups.....                 | 120 gal/space   |
| Churches (Not including a Kitchen, Food Service Facility, Day Care or Camp).....            | 3 gal/seat  |
| Churches (With a Kitchen but, not including a Food Service Facility, Day Care or Camp)..... | 5 gal/sea   |
| Country Clubs.....  | 20 gal/member   |
| Day Care Facilities.....  | 15 gal/person   |
| Factories (Exclusive of industrial waste).....  | 25 gal/person/shift   |
| Add for showers.....  | 10 gal/person/shift   |
| Food Service Facilities   |   |
| Restaurants.....  | 40 gal/seat or<br>40 gal/15 ft <sup>2</sup><br>of dining area, whichever is greater |
| 24-hour Restaurant.....   | 75 gal/seat   |
| Food Stands   |   |
| (1) Per 100 square feet of food stand floor space.....                                      | 50 gal  |
| (2) Add per food employee.....  | 25 gal  |
| Other Food Service Facilities.....  | 5 gal/meal  |
| Hospitals.....  | 300 gal/bed   |
| Marinas.....  | 10 gal/boat slip  |
| With bathhouse.....   | 30 gal/boat slip  |
| Meat Markets  |   |
| (1) Per 100 square feet of market floor space.....  | 50 gal  |
| (2) Add per market employee.....  | 25 gal  |
| Motels/Hotels.....  | 120 gal/room  |
| With cooking facilities.....  | 175 gal/room  |
| Offices (per shift).....  | 25 gal/person   |
| Residential Care Facilities.....  | 60 gal/person   |
| Rest Homes and Nursing Homes  |   |
| With laundry.....   | 120 gal/bed   |
| Without laundry.....  | 60 gal/bed  |
| Schools   |   |
| Day Schools   |   |
| With cafeteria, gym and showers.....  | 15 gal/student  |
| With cafeteria only.....  | 12 gal/student  |
| With neither cafeteria nor showers.....   | 10 gal/student  |
| Boarding Schools.....   | 60 gal/person   |
| Service Stations.....   | 250 gal/water closet or urinal  |
| 24-hour Service Stations.....   | 325 gal/water closet  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Stores, Shopping Centers, and Malls<br>(Exclusive of food service and meat markets.....) | 120 gal/1000 ft <sup>2</sup><br>of retail sales area |
| Stadium, Auditorium, Theater, Drive-In.....  | 5 gal/seat or space                                  |
| Swimming Pools and Bath Houses.....  | 10 gal/person  |

(c) An adjusted design daily sewage flow may be granted by the local health department upon a showing as specified in Subparagraphs (c)(1) through (c)(2) that a sewage system is adequate to meet actual daily water consumption from a facility included in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.

- (1) Documented data from that facility or a comparable facility justifying a flow rate reduction shall be submitted to the local health department and the State. The submitted data shall consist of at least 12 previous consecutive monthly total water consumption readings and at least 30 consecutive daily water consumption readings. The daily readings shall be taken during a projected normal or above normal sewage flow month. A peaking factor shall be derived by dividing the highest monthly flow as indicated from the 12 monthly readings by the sum of the 30 consecutive daily water consumption readings. The adjusted design daily sewage flow shall be determined by taking the numerical average of the greatest ten percent of the daily readings and multiplying by the peaking factor. Further adjustments shall be made in design sewage flow rate used for sizing nitrification fields and pretreatment systems when the sampled or projected wastewater characteristics exceed those of domestic sewage, such as wastewater from restaurants or meat markets.
- (2) An adjusted daily sewage flow rate may be granted contingent upon use of extreme water-conserving fixtures, such as toilets which use 1.6 gallons per flush or less, spring-loaded faucets with flow rates of one gallon per minute or less, and showerheads with flow rates of two gallons per minute or less. The amount of sewage flow rate reduction shall be determined by the local health department and the State based upon the type of fixtures and documentation of the amount of flow reduction to be expected from the proposed facility. Adjusted daily flow rates based upon use of water-conserving fixtures shall apply only to design capacity requirements of dosing and distribution systems and nitrification fields. Minimum pretreatment capacities shall be determined by the design flow rate of Table I of this Rule.

*History Note: Statutory authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990; January 1, 1984.*

**.1950 LOCATION OF SANITARY SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

(a) Every sanitary sewage and disposal system shall be located at least the minimum horizontal distance from the following:

- (1) Any private water supply source, including any well or spring 100 feet;
- (2) Any public water supply source 100 feet;
- (3) Streams classified as WS-I 100 feet;
- (4) Waters classified as S.A. 100 feet from  
mean high  
water mark;
- (5) Other coastal waters 50 feet; from  
mean high  
water mark;

|      |   |                                      |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| (6)  | Any other stream, canal, marsh, or other surface waters               | 50 feet                              |
| (7)  | Any Class I or Class II reservoir                                     | 100 feet from normal pool elevation; |
| (8)  | Any permanent storm water retention pond                              | 50 feet; from flood pool elevation;  |
| (9)  | Any other lake or pond  | 50 feet; from normal pool elevation; |
| (10) | Any building foundation   | 5 feet;                              |
| (11) | Any basement  | 15 feet;                             |
| (12) | Any property line   | 10 feet;                             |
| (13) | Top of slope of embankments or cuts of 2 feet or more vertical height | 15 feet;                             |
| (14) | Any water line  | 10 feet;                             |
| (15) | Drainage Systems:   |                                      |
|      | (A) Interceptor drains, foundation drains and storm water diversions  |                                      |
|      | (i) upslope   | 10 feet;                             |
|      | (ii) sideslope  | 15 feet; and                         |
|      | (iii) downslope   | 25 feet;                             |
|      | (B) Groundwater lowering and devices                                  | 25 feet;                             |
| (16) | Any swimming pool   | 15 feet;                             |
| (17) | Any other nitrification field (except repair area)                    | 20 feet;                             |

(b) Ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal systems may be located closer than 100 feet from a private water supply, except springs and uncased wells located downslope and used as a source of drinking water, for repairs, space limitations, and other site-planning considerations but shall be located the maximum feasible distance and in no case less than 50 feet.

(c) Nitrification fields and repair areas shall not be located under paved areas or areas subject to vehicular traffic. If effluent is to be conveyed under areas subject to vehicular traffic, ductile iron or its equivalent pipe shall be used. However, pipe specified in Rule .1955 (e) may be used if a minimum of 30 inches of compacted cover is provided over the pipe.

(d) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, sites to be used for subsurface disposal for design units with flows over 3,000 gallons per day, as determined in Rule .1949 (a) or (b) of this Section, which include one or more nitrification fields with individual capacities of greater than 1,500 gallons per day, shall be located at least the minimum horizontal distance from the following:

|     |   |                                      |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|
| (1) | Any Class I or II reservoir or any public water supply source utilizing a shallow (under 50 feet) groundwater aquifer | 500 feet;                            |
| (2) | Any other public water supply source, unless determined to utilize a confined aquifer                                 | 200 feet;                            |
| (3) | Any private water supply source, unless determined to utilize a confined aquifer                                      | 100 feet;                            |
| (4) | Waters classified as SA   | 200 feet, from mean high water mark; |
| (5) | Any waters classified as WS-I   | 200 feet;                            |
| (6) | Any surface waters classified as WS-II, WS-III, B or SB   | 100 feet; and                        |
| (7) | Any property line   | 25 feet.                             |

(e) Collection sewers, force mains, and supply lines shall be located at least the minimum

horizontal distance from the following:

- (1) Any public water supply source, including wells, springs, and Class I or Class II reservoirs

100 feet, unless constructed of leakproof pipe, such as ductile iron pipe with mechanical joints equivalent to water main standards, in which case the minimum setback may be reduced to 50 feet;

- (2) Any private water supply source, including wells and springs

50 feet, unless constructed of similar leakproof pipe, such as ductile iron pipe with mechanical joints equivalent to water main standards, in which case the minimum setback may be reduced to 25 feet;

- (3) Any waters classified as WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, B, SA, or SB

50 feet, unless constructed of similar leakproof pipe, such as ductile iron pipe with mechanical joints equivalent to water main standards, in which case the minimum setback may be reduced to

- |      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
|      |  | 10 feet; |
| (4)  | Any other stream, canal, marsh, coastal waters, lakes, and other impoundments, or other surface waters | 10 feet; |
| (5)  | Any basement   | 10 feet; |
| (6)  | Any property line  | 5 feet;  |
| (7)  | Top of slope of embankments or cuts of two feet or more vertical height                                | 10 feet; |
| (8)  | Drainage Systems:  |          |
|      | (A) Interceptor drains, storm drains, and Storm water diversions                                       | 5 feet;  |
|      | (B) Ground-water lowering ditches and devices  | 10 feet; |
| (9)  | Any swimming pool  | 10 feet; |
| (10) | Any other nitrification field  | 5 feet.  |

(f) Sewer lines may cross a water line if 18 inches clear separation distance is maintained, with the sewer line passing under the water line. When conditions prevent an 18-inch clear separation from being maintained or whenever it is necessary for the water line to cross under the sewer, the sewer line shall be constructed of ductile iron pipe or its equivalent and the water line shall be constructed of ferrous materials equivalent to water main standards for a distance of at least ten feet on each side of the point of crossing, with full sections of pipe centered at the point of crossing.

(g) Sewer lines may cross a storm drain if:

- (1) 12 inches clear separation distance is maintained; or
- (2) the sewer is of ductile iron pipe or encased in concrete or ductile iron pipe for at least five feet on either side of the crossing.

(h) Sewer lines may cross a stream if at least three feet of stable cover can be maintained or the sewer line is of ductile iron pipe or encased in concrete or ductile iron pipe for at least ten feet on either side of the crossing and protected against the normal range of high and low water conditions, including the 100-year flood/wave action. Aerial crossings shall be by ductile iron pipe with mechanical joints or steel pipe. Pipe shall be anchored for at least ten feet on either side of the crossing.

(i) Septic tanks, lift stations, wastewater treatment plants, sand filters, and other pretreatment systems shall not be located in areas subject to frequent flooding (areas inundated at a ten-year or less frequency) unless designed and installed to be watertight and to remain operable during a ten-year storm. Mechanical or electrical components of treatment systems shall be above the 100-year flood level or otherwise protected against a 100-year flood.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990; October 1, 1982.*

### **.1951 APPLICABILITY OF RULES**

(a) Except as required in Paragraph (b) of this Rule, the minimum horizontal distance requirements in Rule .1950(a)(4), (11), (12), or (13) shall not apply to the installation of a single septic tank system serving a single-family residence not to exceed four bedrooms on a lot or tract of land:

- (1) which, on July 1, 1977, is specifically described in a deed, contract, or other instrument conveying fee title or which is specifically described in a recorded plat; and
- (2) which, on July 1, 1977, is of insufficient size to satisfy the minimum horizontal distance requirements in Rule .1950(a)(4), (11), (12), or (13) of this Section; and

(3) which, on the date system construction is proposed to begin, is not capable of being served by a community or public sewerage system.

(b) For those lots or tracts of land described in Rule .1951(a) of this Section, where any of the minimum horizontal distance requirements prescribed in Rule .1950(a) (4), (11), (12), or (13) of this Section can be met, such minimum horizontal distances shall be required.

(c) For those lots or tracts of land described in Rule .1951(a) of this Section, where a specific minimum horizontal distance requirement prescribed in Rule .1950(a)(4), (11), (12), or (13) of this Section cannot be met, the maximum feasible horizontal distance, as determined by the local agency, shall be required. Provided, however, that at least the following minimum horizontal distances shall be required in all cases:

- (1) Rule .1950(a)(4) of this Section, the minimum horizontal distance shall be not less than 50 feet;
- (2) Rule .1950(a)(11) of this Section, the minimum horizontal distance shall be not less than 8 feet;
- (3) Rule .1950(a)(12) and (13) of this Section, the minimum horizontal distance shall be not less than 5 feet.

(d) All other provisions of this Section except as exempted by this Rule shall apply to the lots or tracts of land described in Rule .1951(a) of this Section. Any rules and regulations of the Commission for Health Services or any local board of health in effect on June 30, 1977, which establish greater minimum distance requirements than those provided for in this Section, shall remain in effect and shall apply to a lot or tract of land to which .1950(a)(4),(11), (12), or (13) of this Section do not apply.

(e) It shall be the responsibility of any owner of a lot or tract of land, who applies for a permit required by Rule .1937 of this Section, and who seeks, under the provisions of Rule .1951(a) of this Section, to exempt his lot or tract of land from any of the minimum horizontal distance requirements of Rule .1950(a)(4), (11), (12), or (13) of this Section to provide to the local health department necessary records of title to the lot or tract of land for which the exemption is sought in order that the local agency may determine whether the applicant is entitled to any such exemption.

(f) For those lots or tracts of land which, on the effective date of this Section, are specifically described in a deed or recorded plat, and the minimum horizontal distance requirements prescribed in Rule .1950(a)(15)(B) cannot be met, the maximum feasible horizontal distance, as determined by the local health department, shall be required, but shall not be less than ten feet.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

## **.1952 SEPTIC TANK, DOSING TANK AND LIFT STATION DESIGN**

(a) A septic tank or dosing tank shall be watertight, structurally sound, and not subject to excessive corrosion or decay. Septic tanks shall be of two-compartment design. The inlet compartment of a two-compartment tank shall hold between two-thirds and three-fourths of the total tank capacity. A properly designed dosing siphon or pump shall be used for discharging sewage effluent into nitrification lines when the total length of such lines exceeds 750 linear feet in a single system and as required for any pressure-dosed system. When the design daily flow from a single system exceeds 3,000 gallons per day or when the total length of nitrification lines exceeds 2,000 linear feet in a single system, alternating siphons or pumps shall be used which shall discharge to separate nitrification fields. The dose volume from pump or siphon systems shall be of such design so as to fill the nitrification lines from 66 percent to 75 percent of their capacity at each discharge except as required for low-pressure distribution systems. The discharge rate from dosing systems shall be designed to maximize the distribution of the effluent throughout the

nitrification field. Septic tanks installed where the top will be deeper than 30 inches below the finished grade shall have an access manhole, with cover, extending to within six inches of the finished grade, having a minimum opening adequate to accommodate the installation or removal of the septic tank lid. Any system serving a design unit with a design sewage flow greater than 3,000 gallons per day shall have access manholes over each compartment and over the outlet sanitary tee. The access manholes shall extend at least to finished grade and be designed and maintained to prevent surface water inflow. The manholes shall be sized to allow proper inspection and maintenance. All dosing tanks shall have a properly functioning high-water alarm. The alarm shall be audible and visible by system users and weatherproof if installed outdoors. The alarm circuit shall be provided with a manual disconnect in a watertight, corrosion-resistant outside enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) adjacent to the dosing tank.

(b) Minimum liquid capacities for septic tanks shall be in accordance with the following:

| (1) Residential Septic Tanks (for each individual residence or dwelling unit): | Minimum Liquid Capacity | Equivalent Capacity Per Bedroom |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of Bedrooms   |                         |                                 |
| 3 or less  | 900 gallons             | 300 gallons                     |
| 4  | 1,000 gallons           | 250 gallons                     |
| 5  | 1,250 gallons           | 250 gallons                     |

(2) Septic tanks for large residences, multiple dwelling units, or places of business or public assembly shall be in accordance with the following:

- (A) The minimum liquid capacity of septic tanks for places of business or places of public assembly with a design sewage flow of 600 gallons per day or less shall be determined in accordance with the following:  $V = 2Q$ ; where V is the liquid capacity of the septic tank and Q is the design daily sewage flow.
  - (B) Individual residences with more than five bedrooms, multiple-family residences, individual septic tank systems serving two or more residences, or any place of business or public assembly where the design sewage flow is greater than 600 gallons per day, but less than 1,500 gallons per day, the liquid capacity of the septic tank shall be designed in accordance with the following:  $V = 1.17Q + 500$ ; where V is the liquid capacity of the septic tank and Q is the design daily sewage flow. The minimum liquid capacity of a septic tank serving two or more residences shall be 1,500 gallons.
  - (C) Where the design sewage flow is between 1,500 gallons per day and 4,500 gallons per day, the liquid capacity of the septic tank shall be designed in accordance with the following:  $V = 0.75Q + 1,125$ ; where V is the liquid capacity of the septic tank and Q is the design daily sewage flow.
  - (D) Where the design sewage flow exceeds 4,500 gallons per day, the septic tank shall be designed in accordance with the following:  $V = Q$ ; where V is the liquid capacity of the septic tank and Q is the design daily sewage flow.
  - (E) The minimum liquid capacity requirements of Subparagraph (b)(2) of this Rule shall be met by use of a single two-compartment septic tank or by two tanks installed in series, provided the first tank is constructed without a baffle wall and contains at least two-thirds of the total required liquid capacity.
- (3) The minimum capacity of any septic tank shall be 750 gallons.

(c) The following are minimum standards of design and construction of pump tanks and pump dosing systems:

- (1) The liquid capacity of a pump tank shall be considered as the entire internal volume with no additional requirement for freeboard. Pump tanks shall have a minimum liquid capacity in accordance with the following:
  - (A) Pump tanks for systems with nitrification fields installed in Soil Group I, II, or III soils, as defined in these rules, shall have a minimum liquid capacity equal to two-

- thirds of the required septic tank liquid capacity.
- (B) Pump tanks for systems installed in Group IV soils shall have a minimum liquid capacity equal to the required septic tank liquid capacity.
  - (C) The minimum liquid capacity of any pump tank shall be 750 gallons.
  - (D) An alternate method to determine minimum liquid capacity of a pump tank shall be to provide for the minimum pump submergence requirement (Subparagraph (c)(5) of this Rule), the minimum dose volume requirement (Paragraph (a) of this Rule), and the minimum emergency storage capacity requirement. The emergency storage capacity requirement is determined based on the type of facility served, the classification of surface waters which would be impacted by a pump tank failure, and the availability of standby power devices and emergency maintenance personnel. The emergency storage capacity shall be the freeboard space in the pump tank above the high-water alarm activation level plus the available freeboard space in previous tankage and in the collection system below the lowest ground elevation between the pump tank and the lowest connected building drain invert. The minimum emergency storage capacity for residential systems and other systems in full-time use on sites draining into WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, SA, SB and B waters shall be 24 hours, without standby power, or 12 hours with standby power manually activated, or four hours with standby power automatically activated or with a high-water alarm automatically contacting a 24-hour maintenance service. The minimum emergency storage capacity for systems not in full-time use and for all systems at sites draining into all other surface waters shall be 12 hours without standby power, or eight hours with standby power manually activated or four hours with standby power automatically activated or with a high-water alarm automatically contacting a 24-hour maintenance service.
  - (E) Notwithstanding Paragraphs (c) (1) (A)-(D), other criteria for pump tank capacity may be approved by the local health department and the State for raw sewage lift stations, pressure sewer systems, and systems with design flows exceeding 3,000 gallons per day.
- (2) The effluent pump shall be capable of handling at least one-half inch solids and designed to meet the discharge rate and total dynamic head requirements of the effluent distribution system. The pump shall be listed by Underwriter's Laboratory or an equivalent third party electrical testing and listing agency, unless the proposed pump model is specified by a registered professional engineer.
  - (3) Pump discharge piping shall be of Schedule 40 PVC or stronger material and adequately secured. Fittings and valves shall be of compatible corrosion-resistant material. A threaded union, flange, or similar disconnect device shall be provided in each pump discharge line. All submersible pumps shall be provided with a corrosion-resistant rope or chain attached to each pump enabling pump removal from the ground surface without requiring dewatering or entrance into the tank. Valves shall also be readily accessible from the ground surface.
  - (4) Antisiphon holes (three-sixteenth inch) shall be provided when the discharge or invert elevation of the distribution system is below the high-water alarm elevation in the pump tank, or in accordance with pump manufacturer's specifications. Check valves shall be provided when the volume of the supply line is greater than 25 percent of the dosing volume, or in accordance with pump manufacturer's specifications. When provided, the antisiphon hole shall be located between the pump and the check valve.
  - (5) Sealed mercury control floats or similar devices designed for detecting liquid levels in septic tank effluent shall be provided to control pump cycles. A separate level sensing device shall be provided to activate the high-water alarm. Pump-off level

shall be set to keep the pump submerged at all times or in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. A minimum of 12 inches of effluent shall be maintained in the bottom of the pump tank. The high-water alarm float shall be set to activate within six inches of the pump-on level. The lag pump float switch, where provided, shall be located at or above the high-water alarm activation level.

- (6) Pump and control circuits shall be provided with manual circuit disconnects within a watertight, corrosion-resistant, outside enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) adjacent to the pump tank, securely mounted at least 12 inches above the finished grade. The pump(s) shall be manually operable without requiring the use of special tools or entrance into the tank for testing purposes. Conductors shall be conveyed to the disconnect enclosure through waterproof, gasproof, and corrosion-resistant conduits, with no splices or junction boxes provided inside the tank. Wire grips, duct seal, or other suitable material shall be used to seal around wire and wire conduit openings inside the pump tank and disconnect enclosure.
- (7) For systems requiring duplex and multiplex pumps, a control panel should be provided which shall include short-circuit protection for each pump and for the control system, independent disconnects, automatic pump sequencer, hand-off-automatic (H-O-A) switches, run lights, and elapsed time counters for each pump. Alarm circuits shall be supplied ahead of any pump overload or short circuit protective devices. The control panel must be in a watertight, corrosion-resistant enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) unless installed within a weathertight building. The panel shall be protected from intense solar heating.
- (8) Dual and multiple fields shall be independently dosed by separate pumps which shall automatically alternate. The supply lines shall be "H" connected to permit manual alternation between fields dosed by each pump. "H" connection valving shall be readily accessible from the ground surface, either from the pump tank access manhole or in a separate valve chamber outside the pump tank. Other equivalent methods of doing dual or multiple fields may be approved by the State.
- (9) The pump tank shall have a properly functioning high-water alarm. The alarm circuit shall be supplied ahead of any pump overload and short circuit protective devices. The alarm shall be audible and visible by system users and weatherproof if installed outdoors in an enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent).

(d) Siphons and siphon dosing tanks may be used when at least two feet of elevation drop can be maintained between the siphon outlet invert and the inlet invert in the nitrification field distribution system.

- (1) Siphon dosing tanks shall be designed in accordance with the minimum dose requirements in this Rule and shall meet the construction requirements of this Section. The siphon dose tank shall provide at least 12 inches of freeboard, and the inlet pipe shall be at least three inches above the siphon trip level. The high-water alarm shall be set to activate within two inches of the siphon trip level.
- (2) Siphon dosing tanks shall have a watertight access opening over each siphon with a minimum diameter of 24 inches and extending to finished grade and designed to prevent surface water inflow.
- (3) The slope and size of the siphon discharge line shall be sufficient to handle the peak siphon discharge by gravity flow without the discharge line flowing full. Vents for the discharge lines shall be located outside of the dosing tank or otherwise designed to not serve as an overflow for the tank.
- (4) All siphon parts shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. All materials must be corrosion-resistant, of cast iron, high density plastic, fiberglass, stainless steel, or equal.
- (5) Siphon dosing tanks shall have a properly functioning high-water alarm that is

audible and visible by system users and weatherproof if installed outdoors in an enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent).

(c) Raw sewage lift stations shall meet the construction standards of this Section and all horizontal setback requirements for sewage treatment and disposal systems in accordance with Rule .1950(a) of this Section unless the station is a sealed, watertight chamber, in which case the setback requirements for collection sewers in Rule .1950(e) of this Section shall apply. Sealed, watertight chambers shall be of a single, prefabricated unit, such as fiberglass, with sealed top cover, and preformed inlet and outlet pipe openings connected with solvent wells, O-ring seals, rubber boots, stainless steel straps, or equivalent. Dual pumps shall be provided for stations serving two or more buildings or for a facility with more than six water closets. Pumps shall be listed by Underwriter's Laboratories or an equivalent third party electrical testing and listing agency, and shall be grinder pumps or solids-handling pumps capable of handling at least three-inch spheres unless the station serves no more than a single water closet, lavatory, and shower, in which case two-inch solids handling pumps shall be acceptable. Minimum pump capacity shall be 2.5 times the average daily flow rate. The dosing volume shall be set so that the pump-off time does not exceed 30 minutes, except for stations serving single buildings, and pump run-time shall be from three to ten minutes at average flow. Pump station emergency storage capacity and total liquid capacity shall be determined in accordance with Paragraph (c)(1)(D) of this Rule except for a sealed, watertight chamber serving an individual building, in which case a minimum storage capacity of eight hours shall be required. All other applicable requirements for pump tanks and pump dosing systems in accordance with Paragraph (c) of this Rule shall also apply to raw sewage lift stations.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; January 1, 1990.*

### **.1953 PREFABRICATED SEPTIC TANKS AND PUMP TANKS**

When prefabricated concrete tanks or tanks of other material are used, they shall be constructed in accordance with the plans which have been approved by the State and shall comply with all requirements of this Section. At least three complete sets of plans and specifications for the design of the prefabricated septic tank shall be submitted to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7687. Separate plans and specifications for the design of each septic tank or pump tank to be produced shall be submitted to the Division of Environmental Health for approval. These plans and specifications shall show the design of the septic tank in detail, including:

- (1) All pertinent dimensions;
- (2) Reinforcement material and location;
- (3) Material strength;
- (4) Liquid depth;
- (5) Joint material and method of sealing;
- (6) Access manhole and riser detail;
- (7) Other design features.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

### **.1954 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PRECAST REINFORCED CONCRETE TANKS**

- (a) The following are minimum standards of design and construction of precast reinforced

concrete septic tanks:

- (1) The minimum requirement for the liquid depth is 36 inches.
- (2) A minimum of nine inches freeboard is required, the freeboard being the air space between the top of the liquid and the bottom side of the lid or cap of the tank.
- (3) The length of the septic tank shall be at least twice as long as the width.
- (4) There shall be three inlet openings in the tank, one on the tank end and one on each sidewall of the inlet end of the tank. The blockouts for these openings shall leave a concrete thickness of not less than one inch in the tank wall. The blockouts shall be made for a minimum of four-inch pipe or a maximum of six-inch pipe. No blockouts or openings shall be permitted below the tank liquid level.
- (5) The inlet in the tank shall be a straight pipe.
- (6) The outlet shall be a cast-in-place concrete sanitary tee, a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sanitary tee, or a polyethylene (PE) sanitary tee, made of not less than class 160 pipe or equivalent fittings and pipe. Class 160 pipe shall have a wall thickness of not less than 0.183 inches. The cast-in-place concrete sanitary tee shall have a minimum thickness of not less than two inches. The tee shall extend down one-fourth of the liquid depth. The tee shall be furnished by the manufacturer. The invert of the outlet shall be at least two inches lower in elevation than the invert of the inlet.
- (7) All tanks shall be manufactured with a cast-in-place partition so that the tank contains two compartments. The partition shall be located at a point not less than two-thirds nor more than three-fourths the length of the tank from the inlet end. The top of the partition shall terminate two inches below the bottom side of the tank top in order to leave space for air or gas passage between compartments. The top and bottom halves of the partition shall be cast in such manner as to leave a water passage slot four inches high for the full width of the tank. The partition (both halves) shall be reinforced by the placing of six-inch by six-inch No. 10 gage welded reinforcing wire. The reinforcing wire shall be bent to form an angle of 90 degrees on the ends in order to form a leg not less than four inches long. When the wire is placed in the mold the four-inch legs shall lay parallel with the sidewall wire and adjacent to it. It is recognized that there are other methods of constructing a partition or two-compartment tank. Any method other than the one described will be considered on an individual basis for approval by the Division of Environmental Health. However, the tank wall thickness must remain not less than two and one-half inches thick throughout the tank except for blockouts.
- (8) Adequate access openings must be provided in the tank top. Access shall be provided for cleaning or rodding out of the inlet pipe, for cleaning or clearing the air or gas passage space above the partition, an entrance for inserting the suction hose for tank pumping, and for entrance of a person if internal repairs are needed after pumping. This shall be accomplished by properly locating two manholes with each having a minimum opening of 18 inches by 18 inches as the opening cuts the plane of the bottom side of the top of the tank. The manhole covers shall be beveled on all sides in such manner as to accommodate a uniform load of 150 pounds per square foot without damage to the cover or the top of the tank. If the top of the tank is to be multislab construction, the slabs over the inlet of the tank, partition, and outlet of the tank must not weigh in excess of 150 pounds each. Multislab construction allows for the elimination of the manholes. Manhole covers, opening covers, or slabs shall have a handle of steel or other rot-resistant material equivalent in strength to a No. 3 reinforcing rod (rebar).
- (9) The tank shall be reinforced by using a minimum reinforcing of six-inch by six-inch No. 10 gage welded steel reinforcing wire in the top, bottom ends, and sides of the

tank. The reinforcing wire shall be lapped at least six inches. Concrete cover shall be required for all reinforcement. Reinforcement shall be placed to maximize the structural integrity of the tank. The tank shall be able to withstand a uniform live loading of 150 pounds per square foot in addition to all loads to which an underground tank is normally subjected, such as the dead weight of the concrete and soil cover, active soil pressure on tank walls, and the uplifting force of the ground water. Additional reinforcement shall be required when the loads on a concrete tank are exceeded by subjecting it to vehicular traffic or when the top of the tank is placed deeper than three feet below the finished grade.

- (10) The top, bottom, ends, and sides of the tank must have a minimum thickness of two and one-half inches.
- (11) A minimum 28-day concrete compressive strength of 3,500 pounds per square inch shall be used in the construction of the septic tank. The concrete shall achieve a minimum compressive strength of 3,000 pounds per square inch prior to removal of the tank from the place of manufacture. It shall be the responsibility of the manufacturer to certify that this condition has been met prior to shipment. A septic tank shall be subject to testing to ascertain the strength of the concrete prior to its being approved for installation. Recognized devices for testing the strength of concrete include a properly calibrated Schmidt Rebound Hammer or Windsor Probe Test. Accelerated curing in the mold by use of propane gas or other fuels is prohibited, except in accordance with accepted methods and upon prior approval of the State.
- (12) After curing, tanks manufactured in two sections shall be joined and sealed at the joint by using a mastic, butyl rubber, or other pliable sealant that is waterproof, corrosion-resistant, and approved for use in septic tanks. The sealant shall have a minimum size of one inch nominal diameter or equivalent. Before sealing, the joint shall be smooth, intact, and free of all deleterious substances. Tank halves shall be properly aligned to ensure a tight seal. The sealant shall be provided by the manufacturer.
- (13) All tanks produced shall bear an imprint identifying the manufacturer, the serial number assigned to the manufacturer's plans and specifications approved by the State, and the liquid or working capacity of the tanks. This imprint shall be located to the right of the blockout made for the outlet pipe on the outlet end of the tank. All tanks shall also be permanently marked with the date of manufacturer adjacent to the tank imprint or on the top of the tank directly above the imprint.

(b) Pump tanks shall meet the construction requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule with the following modifications:

- (1) Tanks shall be cast with a single compartment, or, if a partition is provided, the partition shall be cast to contain a minimum of two four-inch diameter circular openings, or equivalent, located no more than 12 inches above the tank bottom.
- (2) There shall be no requirement as to tank length, width, or shape, provided the tank satisfies all other requirements of this Section.
- (3) The invert of the inlet openings shall be located within 12 inches of the tank top. No freeboard shall be required in the pump tank.
- (4) After joining, tanks manufactured in two sections shall be plastered along the joint with hydraulic cement, cement mortar, or other waterproofing sealant. Other methods of waterproofing tanks may be used as specifically approved in the plans and specifications for the tank. Prior to backfilling, the local health department shall make a finding that a two section tank is watertight if a soil wetness condition is present within five feet of the elevation of the top of the tank.
- (5) Tanks shall be vented and accessible for routine maintenance. A watertight access

manhole with removable lid shall be provided over the pump with a minimum diameter of 24 inches. The access manhole shall extend at least to six inches above finished grade and be designed and maintained to prevent surface water inflow. Larger or multiple manholes shall be provided when two or more pumps are required. Pumps shall be removable without requiring entrance into the tank. Manhole lids and electrical controls shall be secured against unauthorized access. Manhole risers shall be joined to the tank top and sealed in accordance with Paragraphs (a)(12) and (b)(4) of this Rule.

- (6) All pump tanks shall bear an imprint identifying the manufacturer, pump tank serial number assigned by the Division of Environmental Health, and the liquid or working capacity of the tank. The imprint shall be located to the left of the outlet blockout. All tanks shall also be permanently marked with the date of manufacturer adjacent to the tank imprint or on the top of the tank directly above the imprint.

(c) Plans for prefabricated tanks, other than those for precast reinforced concrete tanks, shall be approved on an individual basis as determined by the information furnished by the designer which indicates the tank will provide equivalent effectiveness as those designed in accordance with the provisions of Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule.

(d) Tanks other than approved prefabricated tanks shall be constructed consistent with the provisions of this Rule except as follows:

- (1) Cast-in-place concrete septic and pump tanks shall have a minimum wall thickness of six inches.
- (2) Concrete block or brick masonry tanks shall have a minimum wall thickness of at least six inches when the design volume is less than 1,000 gallons and a minimum wall thickness of at least eight inches when the design volume is 1,000 gallons or more. All joints between masonry units shall be mortared using masonry cement mortar or equivalent. The joints shall have a nominal thickness of three-eighths inch. All concrete block masonry tanks shall have a minimum wall reinforcement of number three reinforcing bars on 20-inch centers, or equivalent. The maximum allowable reinforcement spacing in either direction shall be four feet. All block wall cores shall be filled with concrete with a minimum compressive strength of 3,000 pounds per square inch. All tanks constructed of block or brick shall be plastered on the inside with a 1:3 mix (one part cement, three parts sand) of Portland cement at least three-eighths inch thick or the equivalent using other approved water-proofing material.
- (3) The bottom of the built-in-place tank shall be poured concrete with a minimum thickness of four inches. All built-in-place tanks shall be reinforced to satisfy the structural strength requirements of Paragraph (a)(9) of this Rule. Reinforcement shall be placed in both directions throughout the entire tank, including top, bottom, walls, and ends.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; January 1, 1990.*

## **.1955 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR CONVENTIONAL SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

(a) Conventional septic tank systems shall utilize a septic tank of approved construction and design volume which provides primary treatment of the sewage in accordance with the provisions of these Rules. The effluent from the septic tank shall be conveyed to an approved nitrification line where the soil provides the final treatment and disposal of the sewage.

(b) Table II shall be used in determining the maximum long-term acceptance rate for septic tank systems of conventional trench design. The long-term acceptance rate shall be based on the most hydraulically limiting naturally occurring soil horizon within three feet of the ground surface or to the depth of one foot below trench bottom, whichever is deeper.

Table II

| <u>SOIL GROUP</u> | <u>SOIL TEXTURE CLASSES<br/>(USDA CLASSIFICATION)</u>              |  | <u>LONG-TERM<br/>ACCEPTANCE RATE</u><br>gpd/ft <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| I                 | Sands<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy)        | Sand<br>Loamy Sand   | 1.2 - 0.8   |
| II                | Coarse Loams<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy) | Sandy Loam<br>Loam   | 0.8 - 0.6   |
| III               | Fine Loams<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy)   | Sandy Clay Loam<br>Silt Loam<br>Clay Loam<br>Silty Clay Loam<br>Silt | 0.6 - 0.3   |
| IV                | Clays<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy)        | Sandy Clay<br>Silty Clay<br>Clay                                     | 0.4 - 0.1   |

The long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed the mean rate for the applicable soil group for food services facilities, meat markets, and other places of business where accumulation of grease can cause premature failure of a soil absorption system. Long-term acceptance rates up to the maximum for the applicable soil group may be permitted for facilities where data from comparable facilities indicates that the grease and oil content of the effluent will be less than 30 mg/l and the chemical oxygen demand (COD) will be less than 500 mg/l.

(c) The design daily sewage flow shall be divided by the long-term acceptance rate to determine the minimum area of nitrification trench bottom. The total length of the nitrification line shall be determined by dividing the required area of nitrification trench bottom by the trench width, not to exceed 36 inches. Trenches shall be located not less than three times the trench width on centers with a minimum spacing of five feet on centers.

(d) The local health department may permit the use of a bed system on sites where the soil texture can be classified into either Soil Groups I, II, or III, meeting the other requirements of this Section, and only on lots which are limited by topography, space, or other site-planning considerations. In such cases, the number of square feet of bottom area needed shall be increased by 50 percent over what would be required for a trench system. Nitrification lines shall be at least 18 inches from the side of the bed and shall have lines on three-foot centers. When the design

daily flow exceeds 600 gallons per day, bed systems shall not be used.

(e) The pipe or tubing used between the septic tank and the nitrification line shall be a minimum of three-inch nominal size Schedule 40 polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyethylene (PE), or acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) or equivalent with a minimum fall of one-eighth inch per foot. However, three-inch or greater nonperforated polyethylene (PE) corrugated tubing may be substituted for Schedule 40 pipe between a distribution device and the nitrification line if the following conditions are met:

- (1) the trench has a minimum bottom width of one foot;
- (2) the trench bed is compacted, smooth, and at a uniform grade;
- (3) the pipe is placed in the middle of the trench with a minimum of three inches of clearance between the pipe and the trench walls;
- (4) washed stone or washed gravel envelope is placed in the trench on both sides of the pipe and up to a point at least two inches above the top of the pipe;
- (5) a minimum of six inches of soil cover is placed and compacted over the stone or gravel envelope; and
- (6) earthen dams consisting of two feet of undisturbed or compacted soil are placed at both ends of the trench separating the trench from the distribution device and the nitrification line.

All joints from the septic tank to the nitrification line shall be watertight.

(f) When four or six-inch diameter corrugated plastic tubing is used for nitrification lines, it shall be certified as complying with ASTM F 405, Standard Specification for Corrugated Polyethylene (PE) Tubing and Fittings, which is hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). The corrugated tubing shall have three rows of holes, each hole between one-half inch and three-fourths inch in diameter, and spaced longitudinally approximately four inches on centers. The rows of holes may be equally spaced 120 degrees on centers around the periphery, or three rows may be located in the lower portion of the tubing, the outside rows being approximately on 120-degree centers. The holes may be located in the same corrugation or staggered in adjacent corrugations. Other types of pipe may be used for nitrification lines provided the pipe satisfies the requirements of this Section for hole size and spacing and the pipe has a stiffness equivalent to corrugated polyethylene tubing (ASTM F-405) or stronger. The nitrification line shall be located in the center of the nitrification trench.

(g) Nitrification trenches shall be constructed as level as possible but in no case shall the fall in a single trench bottom exceed one-fourth inch in 10 feet as determined by an engineer's level or equivalent. When surface slopes are greater than two percent, the bottom of the nitrification trenches shall follow the contour of the ground. An engineer's level or equivalent shall be used for installation and inspection. The nitrification trench shall not exceed a width of three feet and a depth of three feet, except as approved by the local health department.

(h) Rock used in soil absorption systems shall be clean, washed gravel or crushed stone and graded or sized in accordance with size numbers 3, 4, 5, 57 or 6 of ASTM D-448 (standard sizes of coarse aggregate) which is hereby adopted by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-14(c). Copies may be inspected in, and copies obtained from the Division of Environmental Health, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7687. The rock shall be placed a minimum of one foot deep with at least six inches below the pipe and two inches over the pipe and distributed uniformly across the trench bottom and over the pipe.

(i) The soil cover over the nitrification field shall be to a depth of at least six inches. The finished grade over the nitrification field shall be landscaped to prevent the ponding of surface water and runoff of surface water shall be diverted away from the nitrification field. Soil cover above the original grade shall be placed at a uniform depth over the entire nitrification field, except as required to prevent the ponding of surface water, and shall extend laterally five feet beyond the nitrification trench. The soil cover shall be placed over a nitrification field only after proper preparation of the original ground surface. The type of soil cover and placement shall be

approved by the local health department.

(j) Effluent distribution devices, including distribution boxes, flow dividers, and flow diversion devices, shall be of sound construction, watertight, not subject to excessive corrosion, and of adequate design as approved by the local health department. Effluent distribution devices shall be separated from the septic tank and nitrification lines by a minimum of two feet of undisturbed or compacted soil and shall be placed level on a solid foundation of soil or concrete to prevent differential settlement of the device. The installer shall demonstrate that the distribution devices perform as designed.

(k) Grease traps or grease interceptors shall be required at food service facilities, meat markets, and other places of business, where the accumulation of grease can cause premature failure of a soil absorption system. The following design criteria shall be met:

- (1) The grease trap shall be plumbed to receive all wastes associated with food handling and no toilet wastes;
- (2) The grease trap liquid capacity shall be sufficient to provide for at least five gallons of storage per meal served per day, or at least two-thirds of the required septic tank liquid capacity, or a capacity as determined in accordance with the following:

$$LC = D \times GL \times ST \times HR/2 \times LF$$

Where

- LC = grease trip liquid capacity (gallons)
- D = number of seats in dining area
- GL= gallons of wastewater per meal (1.5 single-service; 2.5 full service)
- ST = storage capacity factor = 2.5
- HR= number of hours open
- LF = loading factor
  - = (1.25 interstate highway
  - = 1.0 other highways and recreational areas
  - = 0.8 secondary roads)

- (3) Two or more chambers must be provided with total length-to-width ratio at least 2:1. Chamber opening and outlet sanitary tee must extend down at least 50 percent of the liquid depth.
- (4) Access manholes, with a minimum diameter of 24 inches, shall be provided over each chamber and sanitary tee. The access manholes shall extend at least to finished grade and be designed and maintained to prevent surface water infiltration. The manholes shall also have readily removable covers to facilitate inspection and grease removal.
- (5) One tank or multiple tanks, in series, shall be constructed in accordance with Rules .1952, .1953, and .1954 of this Section, and the provisions of Paragraphs (k)(3) and (k)(4) of this Rule.
- (6) Where it has been demonstrated that specially designed grease interceptors will provide improved performance, the grease trap liquid capacity may be reduced by up to 50 percent.

(l) Stepdowns or drop boxes may be used where it is determined by the local health department that topography prohibits the placement of nitrification trenches on level grade. Stepdowns shall be constructed of two linear feet of undisturbed soil and constructed to a height which fully utilizes the upstream nitrification trench. Effluent shall be conveyed over the stepdown through nonperforated pipe or tubing and backfilled with compacted soil. Drop boxes shall be constructed so that the invert of the inlet supply pipe is one inch above the invert of the outlet supply pipe which is connected to the next lower drop box. The top of the trench outlet laterals, which allow effluent to move to the nitrification lines, shall be two inches below the invert of the outlet supply line. Area taken up by the stepdowns and drop boxes shall not be included as

part of the minimum area required for nitrification trench bottoms.

(m) Nitrification trenches shall be installed with at least one foot of naturally occurring soil between the trench bottom and saprolite, rock, or any soil horizon unsuitable as to structure, clay mineralogy or wetness. If the separation between the bottom of the nitrification trench and any soil wetness condition is less than 18 inches, and if more than six inches of this separation consists of Group I soils, a low pressure pipe system shall be required.

(n) If sewage effluent pumps are used, the applicable requirements of Rule .1952 of this Section shall apply.

(o) Collection sewers shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the following minimum criteria:

- (1) Building drains and building sewers shall be in accordance with the state plumbing code and approved by the local building inspector.
- (2) Pipe material shall be specified to comply with the applicable ASTM standards, with methods of joining and other special installation procedures specified which are appropriate for the pipe to be used.
- (3) Gravity sewers shall be designed to maintain scour velocities of at least two feet per second with the pipe half full and a minimum of one foot per second at the peak projected instantaneous flow rate. Force mains shall be sized to obtain at least a two-foot per second scour velocity at the projected pump operating flow rate.
- (4) Infiltration and exfiltration shall not exceed 100 gallons per day per inch diameter per mile of gravity sewer pipe or 20 gallons per day per inch diameter per mile of pressure pipe in force mains and supply lines.
- (5) Three-foot minimum cover shall be provided for all sewers unless ferrous material pipe is specified. Ferrous material pipe or other pipe with proper bedding to develop design-supporting strength shall be provided where sewers are subject to traffic-bearing loads.
- (6) Manholes shall be used for sewers at any bends, junctions, and at least every 425 feet along the sewer lines. Drop manholes are required where the inlet to outlet elevation difference exceeds 2.5 feet. Manhole lids shall be watertight if located below the 100-year flood elevation, within 100 feet of any public water supply source, or within 50 feet of any private water supply source or any surface waters classified WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, SA, SB, or B.
- (7) Cleanouts may be used instead of manholes for four-inch and six-inch sewers serving one or two buildings or as otherwise allowed by the North Carolina Plumbing Code. When used, cleanouts are required at least every 50 feet for four-inch sewers and every 100 feet for six-inch sewers and at all junctions and bends which exceed 45 degrees.
- (8) Additional ventilation provisions may be required for collection sewers. Air relief valves shall be provided as needed for force mains.

(p) Alternating dual field nitrification systems may be utilized where soils are limited by high clogging potentials (Soil Groups III and IV) and where the potential for malfunction and need for immediate repair is required. Alternating dual nitrification fields shall be designed with two complete nitrification fields, each sized a minimum of 75 percent of the total area required for a single field and separated by an effluent flow diversion valve. The diversion valve shall be constructed to resist 500 pounds crushing strength, structurally sound, and shall be resistant to corrosion. Valves placed below ground level shall be provided with a valve box and suitable valve stem so that they may be operated from the ground surface.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;*

### **.1956 MODIFICATIONS TO SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS**

The following are modifications to septic tank systems which may be utilized to overcome selected soil and site limitations. Except as required in this Rule, the provisions for design and installation of Rule .1955 of this Section shall apply:

- (1) Sites classified UNSUITABLE as to soil depth or soil wetness may be reclassified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE with respect to soil depth or soil wetness conditions by utilizing shallow placement of nitrification trenches in the naturally occurring soil. Shallow trenches may be used where at least 24 inches of naturally occurring soil are present above saprolite, rock, or soil wetness conditions and all other factors are PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE or SUITABLE. Shallow trenches shall be designed and constructed to meet the vertical separation requirements in Rule .1955(m). The long-term acceptance rate shall be based on the most hydraulically limiting naturally occurring soil horizon within 24 inches of the ground surface or to a depth of one foot below the trench bottom, whichever is deeper. Soil cover above the original grade shall be placed at a uniform depth over the entire nitrification field and shall extend laterally five feet beyond the nitrification trench. The soil cover shall be placed over a nitrification field only after proper preparation of the original ground surface. The type and placement of soil cover shall be approved by the local health department.
- (2) Sites classified UNSUITABLE as to soil wetness conditions or restrictive horizons may be reclassified PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE as to soil wetness conditions or restrictive horizons when:
  - (a) Soils are Soil Groups I or II with SUITABLE structure, and clay mineralogy;
  - (b) Restrictive horizons, if present, are less than three inches thick or less than 12 inches from the soil surface;
  - (c) Modifications can be made to meet the requirements in Rule .1955(m) of this Section for the separation between the water table and the bottom of the nitrification trench at all times and when provisions are made for maintenance of the drainage systems;
  - (d) Easements are recorded and have adequate width for egress and ingress for maintenance of drainage systems serving two or more lots;
  - (e) Maintenance of the drainage system is made a condition of any permit issued for the use or operation of a sanitary sewage system; and
  - (f) Drainage may be used in other types of soil when the requirements of Rule .1957(c) in this Section are met.
- (3) Modified nitrification trenches or lines, including large diameter pipe (greater than four inches I.D.), specially designed porous block systems may be permitted by the local health department.
  - (a) Gravelless nitrification trench systems may be substituted for conventional trench systems on any site found to be suitable or provisionally suitable in accordance with Rules .1940 to .1948 to eliminate the need for gravel, minimize site disturbance, or for other site planning considerations. Gravelless nitrification trench systems shall not be used, however, where wastes contain high amounts of grease and oil, such as restaurants.
    - (i) Large diameter pipe systems shall consist of eight-inch or ten-inch (inside diameter), corrugated, polyethylene tubing encased in a nylon, polyester, or nylon/polyester blend filter wrap installed in a nitrification trench, 12 or more

inches wide and backfilled with soil classified as soil group I, II, or III. Nitrification area requirement shall be determined in accordance with Rules .1955(b) and .1955(c), or in Rule .1956 (4)(b), Table III of this Section, when applicable, with eight-inch tubing considered equivalent to a two-foot-wide conventional trench and ten-inch tubing considered equivalent to a two and one-half-foot-wide conventional trench. The long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed 0.8 gallons per day per square foot. Tubing and fittings shall comply with the requirements of ASTM F-667, which is hereby incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions. Copies of the standards may be inspected in and copies obtained from the Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687 at no cost. The corrugated tubing shall have two rows of holes, each hole between three-eighths and one-half-inch in diameter, located 120 degrees apart along the bottom half of the pipe (each 60 degrees from the bottom center line) and staggered so that one hole is present in the valley of each corrugation. The tubing shall be marked with a visible top location indicator, 120 degrees away from each row of holes. Filter wrap shall be spun, bonded, or spunlaced nylon, polyester, or nylon/polyester blend nylon filter wrap meeting the following minimum requirements:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Unit Weight:                                      | Oz/yd <sup>2</sup> = 1.0 |
| Sheet Grab Tensile:                               | MD - 23 lbs.             |
| Trapezoid Tear:                                   | MD - 6.2 lbs.            |
| XD - 5.1 lbs.                                     |                          |
| Mullen Burst:                                     | PSI = 40                 |
| KPa = 276   |                          |
| Frazier Air Perm, CFM/ft @ 0.5 "H <sub>2</sub> O: | 500"                     |

Corrugated Tubing shall be covered with filter wrap at the factory and each joint shall be immediately encased in a black polyethylene sleeve which shall continue to encase the large diameter pipe and wrap until just prior to installation in the trench. Large diameter pipe systems shall be installed in accordance with this Rule and the manufacturer's guidelines. The trench bottom and pipe shall be level (with a maximum fall of one inch in 100 feet). Filter wrap encasing the tubing shall not be exposed to sunlight (ultraviolet radiation) for extended periods. Rocks and large soil clumps shall be removed from backfill material prior to being used. Clayey soils (soil group IV) shall not be used for backfill. The near end of the large diameter pipe shall have an eight-inch by four-inch offset adaptor (small end opening at top) suitable for receiving the pipe from the septic tank or distribution device and making a mechanical joint in the nitrification trench.

- (ii) A Prefabricated, Permeable Block Panel System (PPBPS), utilizing both horizontal and vertical air chambers and special construction to promote downline and horizontal distribution of effluent, may be used under the following conditions;
  - (A) the soil and site criteria of this Section shall be met;
  - (B) in calculating the required linear footage for a PPBPS's nitrification field, the linear footage for the nitrification line as determined in Rule .1955(b) and (c), or in Rule .1956(6)(b), Table III of this Section when applicable, shall be multiplied by 0.5 for a 16 inch PPBPS;
  - (C) installation of the PPBPS shall be in accordance with these Rules except:

- (I) the PPBPS trench shall be located not less than eight feet on centers;
  - (II) the installation shall be in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications; and
  - (III) the sidewalls of nitrification trenches placed in Group IVa soils shall be raked to open pores which were damaged or sealed during excavation;
  - (D) where design sewage flow is more than 480 gallons per day, the system shall be pressure-dosed; and
  - (E) the long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed 0.8 gallons per day per square foot.
- (b) Other types of nitrification trenches or lines may be approved by the local health department on a site-specific basis in accordance with Rule .1969 of this Section.
- (4) Sites classified as UNSUITABLE as to soil wetness conditions because of the presence of lateral water movement may be reclassified PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE as to soil wetness conditions which such water is intercepted and diverted to prevent saturation of the soil absorption system.
- (5) Stable slopes greater than 30 percent may be reclassified as PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE when:
- (a) The soil characteristic can be classified as SUITABLE or PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE to a depth of at least one foot below the bottom of the nitrification trench at the upslope side of the trench;
  - (b) Surface water runoff is diverted around the nitrification field if necessary to prevent scouring or erosion of the soil over the field; and
  - (c) The finished grade over the nitrification site is returned to the original topography and adequately seeded, unless otherwise specified by the local health department.
- (6) Sites classified UNSUITABLE as to soil depth, with saprolite present, may be reclassified PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE as to soil depth when the provisions of this Paragraph are met.
- (a) An investigation of the site using pits or trenches at locations and to depths specified by the local health department shall be conducted. The following physical properties and characteristics must be present:
- (i) the saprolite shall be weathered from acidic (granite, gneiss, or schist) parent rock types of metamorphic or igneous origin;
  - (ii) the saprolite texture shall be suitable and saprolite shall have less than 20 percent clay;
  - (iii) clay mineralogy shall be suitable;
  - (iv) the saprolite consistence shall be loose, friable to very friable when moist as determined in place and nonsticky or nonplastic when wet;
  - (v) the saprolite shall be overlain by at least one foot of SUITABLE or PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE naturally occurring soil; and
  - (vi) the saprolite shall have no continuous joints or fractures relic of parent rock to a depth of two feet below the proposed trench bottom.
- (b) Table III shall be used in determining the long-term acceptance rate for septic tank systems installed pursuant to Paragraph (6) of this Rule. The long-term acceptance rate shall be based on the most hydraulically limiting, naturally occurring saprolite to a depth of two feet below trench bottom.

| <u>SAPROLITE</u><br><u>GROUP</u> | <u>TABLE III</u><br><u>SAPROLITE</u><br><u>TEXTURAL CLASSES</u> | <u>LONG-TERM</u><br><u>ACCEPTANCE RATE</u><br><u>gpd/ft<sup>2</sup></u> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
|----------------------------------|---|---|

|    |  |                    |                        |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| I  | Sands  | Sand               | 0.6 - 0.5              |
|    |  | Loamy Sand         | 0.5 - 0.4              |
| II | Coarse Loams<br>(With less<br>than 20% clay) | Sandy Loam<br>Loam | 0.4 - 0.3<br>0.3 - 0.1 |

If a low pressure pipe system is used, the long term acceptance rate in Table III shall be reduced by one-half and the system shall be designed in accordance with Rule .1957(a) of this Section, except that Rule. 1957 (a)(2)(B) and Rule .1957(a)(3) shall not apply. Saprolite textural classifications shall be determined from disturbed materials and determined by Rule .1941(a)(1). The local health department may require low-pressure distribution in conventional nitrification trenches, or other modifications available under this rule, to insure adequate effluent treatment and disposal.

- (c) Only ground absorption systems with a design daily flow of 480 gallons or less shall be installed on sites reclassified pursuant to this Paragraph [Rule .1956(4)].
- (d) The nitrification field shall be constructed using nitrification trenches with a maximum width of three feet and a maximum depth of two feet on the downslope side of the nitrification trench. The bottom of a nitrification trench shall be a minimum of two feet above rock or saprolite that does not meet the requirements of Subparagraph (6)(a) of this Rule. However, where SUITABLE or PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE soil underlies the trench bottom, this separation distance may be reduced by subtracting the actual soil depth beneath the trench bottom from 24 inches to establish the minimum separation distance from the trench bottom to rock.
- (e) The bottom of any nitrification trench shall be a minimum of two feet above any wetness condition.
- (f) Surface and subsurface interceptor drains may be required.
- (g) Exceptions to the provisions of Rule .1950(a) found in Rule .1950 and .1951 shall not apply to systems installed pursuant to this Paragraph [Rule .1956(6)].

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. April 1, 1993; January 1, 1990; August 1, 1988; October 1, 1983.*

**.1957 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR DESIGN OF ALTERNATIVE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

(a) **LOW-PRESSURE PIPE SYSTEMS:** Low-pressure (LLP) systems with two to five-foot pressure head may be utilized on sites which are SUITABLE or PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE for conventional or modified systems and on sites where soil and site conditions prohibit the installation of a conventional or modified septic tank system if the requirements of this Paragraph are met.

- (1) The LPP shall consist of the following basic components:
  - (A) a network of small-diameter (one inch to two inches) perforated PVC 160 psi pipe or equivalent placed in naturally occurring soil at shallow depths (generally 12 to 18 inches) in narrow trenches not less than eight inches in width and spaced not less than five feet on center. Trenches shall include at least five inches of washed stone or washed gravel below the pipe and two inches above the pipe; and four inches of soil cover.
  - (B) a properly designed, two-compartment septic tank or other approved pretreatment system and a pumping or dosing tank;

- (C) a watertight supply manifold pipe, of Schedule 40 PVC or equivalent, for conveying effluent from the dosing chamber to the low-pressure network.
- (2) The soil and site criteria for LPP systems shall meet the following minimum requirements:
  - (A) LPP nitrification fields shall not be installed on slopes in excess of ten percent unless special design procedures to assure proper distribution of effluent over the nitrification field are approved. Landscaping of the LPP distribution field shall be constructed to shed rainwater or runoff. All other requirements of Rule .1940 of this Section shall be met.
  - (B) Site suitability for an LPP system shall be based on the first 24 inches of soil beneath the naturally occurring soil surface. This 24 inches shall consist of SUITABLE or PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE soil as determined in accordance with Rules .1941 through .1944 and .1956 of this Section.
  - (C) Location of the septic tank, other approved pretreatment unit, pumping or dosing chamber, and nitrification field shall be in accordance with Rule. 1950 of this Section. Horizontal distances from the nitrification field shall be measured from a margin two and one-half feet beyond the lateral and manifold pipes.
  - (D) There shall be no soil disturbance of the site or repair area for an LPP system except the minimum required for installation.
  - (E) The available space requirements of Rule .1945 of this Section shall apply.
- (3) Table IV shall be used in determining the long-term application rate for LPP systems. The long-term acceptance rate shall be based on the most hydraulically limiting, naturally occurring soil horizon within two feet of the ground surface or to a depth of one foot below the trench bottom, whichever is deeper.

| <u>SOIL GROUP</u> | <u>TABLE IV</u><br><u>SOIL TEXTURAL CLASSES</u><br><u>(USDA CLASSIFICATION)</u> |                    | <u>LONG-TERM</u><br><u>ACCEPTANCE RATE</u><br><u>gpd/ft<sup>2</sup></u> |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| I                 | Sands<br>(With S or PS)   | Sand<br>Loamy Sand | 0.6 - 0.4   |

|     | structure and<br>clay mineralogy)                                  |  |            |
|-----|--|--|------------|
| II  | Coarse Loams<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy) | Sandy Loam<br>Loam   | 0.4 - 0.3  |
| III | Fine Loams<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy)   | Sandy Clay Loam<br>Silt Loam<br>Clay Loam<br>Silty Clay Loam<br>Silt | 0.3 - 0.15 |
| IV  | Clays<br>(With S or PS<br>structure and<br>clay mineralogy)        | Sandy Clay<br>Silty Clay<br>Clay                                     | 0.2 - 0.05 |

The long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed the mean rate for the applicable soil group for food service facilities, meat markets, and other places of business where accumulation of grease can cause premature failure of a soil absorption system. Long-term acceptance rates up to the maximum for the applicable soil group may be permitted for facilities where data from comparable facilities indicates that the grease and oil content of the effluent will be less than 30 mg/l and the chemical oxygen demand (COD) will be less than 500 mg/l.

- (4) In calculating the number of square feet for the nitrification field, the design sewage flow shall be divided by the long-term acceptance rate from Table IV. In calculating the minimum length of trenches in the LPP system, the total square footage of the nitrification field shall be divided by five feet.
- (5) Low-pressure systems shall be designed for uniform distribution of effluent. The trenches shall be level and parallel to the ground elevation contours.
  - (A) The maximum lateral length shall yield no more than a ten-percent difference in discharge rate between the first and last hole along the lateral.
  - (B) Minimum hole size shall be 5/32-inch for at least two-thirds of the field lateral lines. Smaller holes (no less than 1/8-inch) may be used in no more than one-third of the lateral lines where necessary to balance flow distribution on sloping sites. However, for systems serving restaurants, foodstand, meat markets, and other establishments where effluent is expected to have a high clogging potential, the minimum hole size shall be 5/32-inch.
  - (C) Maximum hole space shall be as follows: Soil Group I, five feet; Soil Group II, six feet; Soil Group III, eight feet; and Soil Group IV, ten feet.
  - (D) The following design provisions are required for sloping sites:
    - (i) Separately valved manifolds are required for all subfield segments where the elevation difference between the highest and lowest laterals exceeds three feet.
    - (ii) The hole spacing, hole size or both, shall be adjusted to compensate for relative head differences between laterals branching off a common supply manifold and to compensate for the bottom lines receiving more effluent at the beginning and end of a dosing cycle. The lateral network shall be designed to achieve a ten

to 30 percent higher steady state (pipe full) flow rate into the upper lines, relative to the lower lines, depending on the amount of elevation difference.

(iii) Maximum elevation difference between the highest and lowest laterals in a field shall not exceed ten feet unless the flow is hydraulically split between subfield segments without requiring simultaneous adjustment of multiple valves.

- (E) Turn-ups shall be provided at the ends of each lateral, constructed of Schedule 40 PVC pipe or equivalent, and protected with sleeves of larger diameter pipe (six inches or greater). Turn-ups and sleeves shall be cut off and capped at or above the ground surface, designed to be protected from damage, and easily accessible.
- (F) The supply manifold shall be sized large enough relative to the size and number of laterals served so that friction losses and differential entry losses along the manifold do not result in more than a 15 percent variation in discharge rate between the first and last laterals.
  - (i) The ratio of the supply manifold inside cross sectional area to the sum of the inside cross sectional areas of the laterals served shall exceed 0.7:1.
  - (ii) The reduction between the manifold and connecting laterals shall be made directly off the manifold using reducing tees.
  - (iii) Cleanouts to the ground surface shall be installed at the ends of the supply manifold.
- (G) Gate valves shall be provided for pressure adjustment at the fields whenever the supply line exceeds 100 feet in length. Valves shall be readily accessible from the ground surface and adequately protected in valve boxes.
- (6) Septic tanks, pump tanks, pump dosing systems, siphons, and siphon dosing tanks shall be provided in accordance with Rule .1952 of this Section.
  - (A) Design flow rate shall be based upon delivering two feet to five feet of static pressure head at the distal end of all lateral lines.
  - (B) Dose volume shall be between five and ten times the liquid capacity of the lateral pipe dosed, plus the liquid capacity of the portions of manifold and supply lines which drain between doses.

(b) **FILL SYSTEM:** A fill system (including new and existing fill) is a system in which all or part of the nitrification trench(es) is installed in fill material. A fill system, including an existing fill site, may be approved where soil and site conditions prohibit the installation of a conventional or modified septic tank system if the requirements of this Paragraph are met.

- (1) Fill systems may be installed on sites where at least the first 18 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface consists of soil that is suitable or provisionally suitable with respect to soil structure and clay mineralogy, and where organic soils, restrictive horizons, saprolite or rock are not encountered. Further, no soil wetness condition shall exist within the first 12 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface and a groundwater lowering system shall not be used to meet this requirement. Fill systems shall not be utilized on designated wetlands unless the proposed use is specifically approved in writing by the designating agency. The following requirements shall also be met:
  - (A) Nitrification trenches shall be installed with at least 24 inches separating the trench bottom and any soil horizon unsuitable as to soil structure, clay mineralogy, organic soil, rock or saprolite. However, if a low pressure pipe system is used, the minimum separation distance shall be 18 inches.
  - (B) Nitrification trenches shall be installed with at least 18 inches separating the trench bottom and any soil wetness condition. This separation requirement for soil wetness conditions may be met with the use of a groundwater lowering system only in Soil Groups I and II, with suitable structure and clay mineralogy. However, if a low pressure pipe system is used, the minimum separation distance shall be 12

inches.

- (C) Systems shall be installed only on sites with uniform slopes less than 15 percent. Storm water diversions and subsurface interceptor drains or swales may be required upslope of the system.
- (D) The long-term acceptance rate shall be based on the most hydraulically limiting soil horizon within 18 inches of the naturally occurring soil surface or to a depth one foot below the trench bottom, whichever is deeper. The lowest long-term acceptance rate for the applicable soil group shall be used for systems installed pursuant to this Rule. However, the long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed 1.0 gallons per day per square foot for gravity distribution or 0.5 gallons per day per square foot for low-pressure pipe systems installed on sites with at least 18 inches of Group I soils below the naturally occurring soil surface or to a depth of one foot below the trench bottom, whichever is deeper.
- (E) If the fill system uses low-pressure pipe distribution, all the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, except Paragraph (a)(2)(B), shall apply. Systems with a design daily flow greater than 480 gallons per day shall use low-pressure pipe distribution.
- (F) Fill material shall have such soil texture to be classified as sand or loamy sand (Soil Group I) up to the top of the nitrification trenches. The final six inches of fill used to cover the system shall have a finer texture (such as Group II, III) for the establishment of a vegetative cover. Existing fill material shall have no more than ten percent by volume of fibrous organics, building rubble, or other debris and shall not have discreet layers containing greater than 35 percent of shell fragments.
- (G) Where fill material is added, the fill material and the existing soil shall be mixed to a depth of six inches below the interface. Heavy vegetative cover or organic litter shall be removed before the additional fill material is incorporated.
- (H) The fill system shall be constructed as an elongated berm with the long axis parallel to the ground elevation contours of the slope.
- (I) The side slope of the fill shall not exceed a rise to run ratio of 1:4. However, if the first 18 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface is Group I soil, the side slope of the fill shall not exceed a rise to run ratio of 1:3.
- (J) The outside edge of the nitrification trench shall be located at least five feet horizontally from the top of the side slope.
- (K) The fill system shall be shaped to shed surface water and shall be stabilized with a vegetative cover against erosion.
- (L) The setback requirements shall be measured from the projected toe of the slope. However, if this setback cannot be met, the setback requirements shall be measured from a point five feet from the nearest edge of the nitrification trench if the following conditions are met:
  - (i) Slope of the site shall not exceed two percent;
  - (ii) The first 18 inches of soil beneath the naturally occurring soil surface shall consist of Group I soils;
  - (iii) The lot or tract of land was recorded on or before December 31, 1989; and
  - (iv) A condition is placed upon the Improvement Permit to require connection to a public or community sewage system within 90 days after such system is available for connection and after it is determined that 300 feet or less of sewer line is required for connection.
- (M) The available space requirements of Rule .1945 of this Section shall apply.
- (2) An existing fill site that does not meet the requirements of Paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule may be utilized for a sanitary sewage system if the following requirements are met:

- (A) Substantiating data are provided by the lot owner (if not readily available to the local health department) indicating that the fill material was placed on the site prior to July 1, 1977.
- (B) The fill material placed on the site prior to July 1, 1977 shall have such soil texture to be classified as sand or loamy sand (Group I) for a depth of at least 24 inches below the existing ground surface. This fill material shall have no more than ten percent by volume of fibrous organics, building rubble, or other debris. This fill shall not have discreet layers containing greater than 35 percent of shell fragments. However, if at least 24 inches of Group I fill material was in place prior to July 1, 1977, additional fill with soil texture classified as Group I may be added to meet the separation requirements of Paragraph (b)(2)(D) of this Rule.
- (C) Soil wetness conditions, as determined by Rule .1942(a) in this Section, are 18 inches or greater below the ground surface of the fill placed on the lot prior to July 1, 1977. This requirement shall be met without the use of a groundwater lowering system.
- (D) Low-pressure pipe distribution shall be used and shall meet all the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, except (a)(2)(B). The long-term acceptance rate shall not exceed 0.5 gallons per day per square foot. However, for existing fill sites with 48 inches of Group I soils, conventional nitrification trenches utilizing a maximum long-term acceptance rate of 1.0 gallons per day per square foot may be installed in lieu of low-pressure pipe systems. The minimum separation distance between the trench bottom and any soil wetness condition or any soil horizon unsuitable as to soil structure, clay mineralogy, organic soil, rock, or saprolite shall be 24 inches for low pressure pipe and 48 inches for conventional systems. This separation requirement may be met by adding additional Group I soil, but shall not be met with the use of a groundwater lowering system. Where fill is to be added, the requirements of Paragraph (b)(1)(C), (F), (G), (H), (J), (K), of this Rule and the following requirements shall be met:
  - (i) The side slope of the fill shall not exceed a side slope ratio of 1:3, and;
  - (ii) The setback requirements shall be measured from the projected toe of the slope. However, if this setback cannot be met, the setback requirements shall be measured from a point five feet from the nearest edge of the nitrification trench if the following conditions are met:
    - (I) Slope of the site shall not exceed two percent;
    - (II) The lot or tract of land was recorded on or before December 31, 1989; and
    - (III) A condition is placed upon the Improvement Permit to require connection to a public or community sewage system within 90 days after such system is available for connection and after it is determined that 300 feet or less of sewer line is required for connection.
- (E) The available space requirements of Rule .1945 of this Section shall apply.
- (F) The design flow shall not exceed 480 gallons per day.
- (3) Other fill systems may be approved by the local health department on a site-specific basis in accordance with Rule .1948(d) of this Section.
  - (c) Individual aerobic sewage treatment units (ATUs) shall be sited, designed, constructed and operated in accordance with this Rule to serve a design unit with a design flow rate of up to 1500 gallons per day, as determined in Rule .1949(a) or .1949(b) of this Section. ATUs shall not be used, however, where wastes contain high amounts of grease and oil, including restaurants and food service facilities. The strength of the influent wastewater shall be similar to domestic sewage with Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and suspended solids not to exceed 300 parts per million. ATUs shall comply with the requirements of National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard 40

for Individual Aerobic Wastewater Treatment Plants and shall be classified as meeting Class I effluent quality. NSF Standard 40 for Individual Aerobic Wastewater Treatment Plants is hereby incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions. Copies of the standards may be inspected in and copies obtained from the Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687 at no cost. ATUs shall bear the NSF mark and the NSF listed model number or shall bear the certification mark and listed model number of a third party certification program accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), pursuant to ANSI Policy and Procedures for Accreditation of Certification Programs to certify ATUs in accordance with NSF Standard Number 40. The ANSI Policy and Procedures for Accreditation of Certification Programs is hereby incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions. Copies of the standard may be inspected in and copied obtained from the Division of Environmental Health, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687 at no cost. ATUs shall only be permitted where the unit is to be operated and maintained by a certified wastewater treatment facility operator employed by or under contract to the county in which the unit is located, and in accordance with this Rule.

- (1) ATUs shall be constructed and installed in accordance with the plans which have been approved by the Division of Environmental Health and shall comply with all requirements of this Rule. Procedures for plan review and approval shall be in accordance with Rule .1953 of this Section.
- (2) The rated capacity of ATUs listed as complying with NSF Standard 40 shall not be less than the design daily flow as determined by Rule .1949(a) or .1949(b) of this Section.
- (3) The following are minimum standards of design and construction of ATUs:
  - (A) Blockouts in concrete ATU inlet openings shall leave a concrete thickness not less than one inch in the plant wall. Inlet and outlet blockouts shall be made for a minimum of four inch pipe and a maximum of six inch pipe. No blockouts or openings shall be permitted below the liquid level of the ATU.
  - (B) The inlet into the ATU shall be a straight pipe.
  - (C) The invert of the outlet shall be at least two inches lower in elevation than the invert of the inlet.
  - (D) Interior baffle walls in concrete units shall be reinforced by the placing of six-inch by six-inch No. 10 gauge welded reinforcing wire. The reinforcing wire shall be bent to form an angle of 90 degrees on the ends in order to form a leg not less than four inches long. When the wire is placed in the mold, the four inch legs shall lay parallel with the side wall wire and adjacent to it.
  - (E) Access openings shall be provided in the ATU top. Access shall be provided for cleaning or rodding out the inlet pipe, for cleaning or clearing air or gas passage spaces, as an entrance for inserting the suction hose in compartments that are required to be pumped out, to allow for sampling the effluent, and for access to repair or maintain any system components requiring repair and maintenance. All access openings shall have risers sealed to the top of the ATU and extended at least to six inches above finished grade and designed and maintained to prevent surface water inflow. Rule .1950(i) of this Section shall also be met.
  - (F) Concrete ATUs shall be constructed in accordance with Rule .1954(a)(9), (10), (11) and (12) and .1954(b)(4) of this Section.
  - (G) Fiberglass reinforced plastic ATUs shall be constructed with materials capable of resisting corrosion from sewage and sewage gases, and the active and passive loads on the unit walls.
    - (i) ATUs shall have the following minimum physical properties:

Ultimate tensile strength:

12,000 psi

Flexural

Strength: 19,000 psi

Flexural modulus

Of elasticity: 800,000 psi

- (ii) A vacuum test shall be performed on at least one ATU of each model number by an independent testing laboratory, in accordance with ASTM D-4021, Standard Specification for Glass-Fiber Reinforced Polyester Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks, which is hereby incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions. Copies of the standards may be inspected in and copies obtained from the Division of Environmental Health, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C, 27611-7687. Unit must withstand negative pressure of 2.5 pounds per square inch (69.3 inches of water) without leakage or failure. Test results shall be included with the specifications that are provided to the state for approval.
  - (iii) Composition of the finished unit shall be at least 30 percent fiberglass reinforcement by weight. Minimum wall thickness shall be one-fourth inch. However, a wall thickness of not less than three-sixteenth inch may be allowed in small, isolated areas of the ATU.
  - (iv) Interior and exterior surfaces shall have no exposed fibers or projections, no blisters larger than one-fourth inch in diameter, and no pores or indentations deeper than one-sixteenth inch. The tank shall be watertight.
- (H) Prefabricated ATUs other than precast reinforced concrete or fiberglass reinforced plastic units shall be approved on an individual basis based on information furnished by the designer which indicates the unit will provide effectiveness equivalent to reinforced concrete or fiberglass reinforced plastic units.
- (I) ATUs shall bear an imprint identifying the manufacturer, serial number assigned to the manufacturer's plans and specifications approved by the Division of Environmental Health, and the liquid or working capacity of the unit. The imprint shall be located to the right of the blockout or opening made for the outlet pipe on the outside of the unit. ATUs shall also be permanently marked with the date of the manufacture adjacent to the unit imprint or on the top of the unit directly above the imprint.
- (J) The design, construction, and operation of ATUs shall prevent bypass of wastewater.
- (K) Electrical circuits to the ATU shall be provided with manual circuit disconnects within a watertight, corrosion-resistant, outside enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) adjacent to the ATU securely mounted at least 12 inches above the finished grade. Control panels provided by the manufacturer shall be installed in a watertight corrosion-resistant enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) adjacent to the unit or on the side of the facility readily visible from the unit and accessible by maintenance personnel. Conductors shall be conveyed to the disconnect enclosure and control panel through waterproof, gasproof, and corrosion-resistant conduits. Splices and wire junctions, if needed, shall be made outside the ATU in a watertight, corrosion-resistant enclosure (NEMA 4X or equivalent) securely mounted adjacent to the unit at least 12 inches above the finished grade. Wire grips, duct seal, or other suitable material shall be used to seal around wire and wire conduit openings inside the ATU and disconnect enclosure. The ATU shall have an alarm device or devices to warn the user or operator of a unit malfunction or a high water condition. The alarm shall be audible and visible by system users and securely mounted adjacent to the ATU, on the side of the facility in clear view of the unit, or inside the finished occupied space of the facility. If mounted outside, the alarm shall meet NEMA 4X standards or equivalent. The alarm circuit or circuits shall be supplied ahead of any ATU electrical control circuit overload and short circuit protective devices.

- (4) A settling tank shall be required prior to an ATU serving a design unit with a design daily flow greater than 500 gallons, as determined in Rule .1949(a) or .1949(b) of this Section. The liquid capacity of the settling tank shall be at least equal to the design daily flow as determined in Rule .1949(a) or (b) of this Section. The settling tank may either be an approved prefabricated septic tank or another tank specially designed for a specific individual aerobic sewage treatment plan and approved by the Division of Environmental Health as a part of the plans for the plant.
- (5) Ground absorption systems receiving effluent from approved ATUs may be used on sites classified as suitable or provisionally suitable for conventional, modified, or alternative systems in accordance with this Section. The following modifications to siting and design criteria shall be acceptable:
- (A) The minimum horizontal setback requirements of Rule .1950(a) of this Section shall be met, except as follows:
- (i) Any private water supply source, except any uncased well or spring..... 50 feet.
  - (ii) Streams classified as WS-I..... 70 feet.
  - (iii) Waters classified as SA..... 70 feet.
  - (iv) Other coastal waters not classified as SA..... 35 feet.
  - (v) Any other stream, canal, marsh, or other surface waters..... 35 feet.
  - (vi) Any Class I or Class II reservoir..... 70 feet,  
from normal  
pool elevation .
  - (vii) Any permanent storm water retention pond..... 35 feet,  
from flood  
pool elevation.
  - (viii) Any other lake or pond..... 35 feet,  
from normal  
pool elevation.
- (B) The requirements of Rules .1955(m), .1956(1), .1956(2), .1956(6), .1957(b)(1), and .1957(b)(2) of this Section shall be met, except as follows:
- (i) A low-pressure pipe system shall not be required where the separation between the bottom of the nitrification trench and any soil wetness condition is at least 12 inches, but less than 18 inches, and more than six inches of this separation consists of Group I soils.
  - (ii) The restriction in Rule .1956(6)(a)(v) of this Section that saprolite be overlain by at least one foot of suitable or provisionally suitable naturally occurring soil shall not apply.
  - (iii) For new fill systems, a low pressure pipe system shall not be required in order for the minimum separation distance between the trench bottom and any unsuitable soil horizon, rock, or saprolite to be reduced to 18 inches.
  - (iv) For existing fill systems, the minimum separation requirements of Rule .1957(b)(2)(D) of this Section shall be reduced from 48 to 36 inches for conventional systems and from 24 to 18 inches for low-pressure pipe system.
- (C) The maximum long-term acceptance rate shall be increased by 25 percent for any ground absorption system in soils which are Groups I or II with suitable structure and clay mineralogy. No other reductions in linear footage of nitrification trench or system area shall be applied, except where based on an adjusted design daily sewage flow rate granted in accordance with Rule .1949(c) of this Section.
- (6) Prior to issuance of an Operation Permit for an ATU, the manufacturer or his licensed representative shall certify that the unit has been properly installed and a contract for operation and maintenance shall have been executed between the unit owner and the county in accordance with Rule .1961(b) of this Section. It shall be a condition of the

Operation Permit that subsequent owners of an ATU execute such a contract. The contract shall include the specific requirements for maintenance and operation, responsibilities for maintenance and operation, responsibilities of the owner and system operator, provisions that the contract shall be in effect for as long as the system is in use, and other requirements for the continued proper performance of the ATU. A condition of the Operation Permit shall be that the unit continue to perform in accordance with Class I effluent quality requirements of the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard Number 40 effective on the date the improvement permit was issued.

- (7) Performance monitoring shall be carried out by the operator.
  - (A) During each inspection, the operator shall confirm proper mechanical performance, conduct a visual check for unusual color, clogging, oily film, odors, foam, measure settleable aeration chamber solids, and ascertain the need for removing solids, backwash and cleaning of filters, and other maintenance activities. The ground absorption system shall also be inspected and an evaluation of performance shall be made. The operator shall take the necessary steps to assure that needed maintenance is carried out.
  - (B) Semi-annually, samples shall be collected by the system operator and analyzed by a state-approved wastewater testing laboratory of the effluent for Five-Day Biological Oxygen Demand, Suspended Solids, and pH. The aeration tank shall be sampled for mixed liquor suspended solids.
  - (C) Performance monitoring results shall be reported to the local health department and the state quarterly.
  - (D) Remedial action and additional sampling shall be required if monitoring results or inspection indicate that Class I effluent standards are not met.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. April 1, 1993; May 1, 1991; December 1, 1990;  
January 1, 1990.*

## **.1958 NON-GROUND ABSORPTION SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

(a) Where an approved privy, an approved septic tank system, or a connection to an approved public or community sewage system is impossible or impractical, this Section shall not prohibit the state or local health department from permitting approved non-ground absorption treatment systems utilizing heat or other approved means for reducing the toilet contents to an inert or stabilized residue or to an otherwise harmless condition, rendering such contents non-infectious or non-contaminating. Alternative systems shall be designed to comply with the purposes and intent of this Section.

(b) Holding tanks shall not be considered as an acceptable sewage treatment and disposal system. An improvement permit shall not be issued for a sewage holding tank.

(c) Incinerating, composting, vault privies, and mechanical toilets shall be approved by the state agency or local health department only when all of the sewage will receive adequate treatment and disposal.

(d) Sewage recycling systems which discharge treated waste-water meeting the state drinking water standards may be used only for toilet flushing and recycled sewage shall not be used for body contact or human consumption. Such systems must be specifically approved by the state or local health department.

(e) Chemical or portable toilets for human waste may be used at mass gatherings, construction sites, and labor work camps. Chemical or portable toilets proposed for use at a labor work camp shall have an operation permit from the local health department upon a showing by the owner or controller that the chemical or portable toilet shall be maintained in a sanitary

condition. Chemical or portable toilets shall have a watertight waste receptacle constructed of nonabsorbent, acid resistant, noncorrosive material. The chemical or portable toilet waste collected shall be discharged into an approved sewage treatment and disposal system.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; January 1, 1990.*

### **.1959 PRIVY CONSTRUCTION**

An “approved privy” shall consist of a pit, floor slab, and seat assembly housed in a building which affords privacy and reasonable protection from the weather.

- (1) The pit shall consist of an excavation at least 42 inches square and in no case shall the bottom of an excavation be closer than one foot from the seasonally high water table or rock.
- (2) The pit shall be properly curbed to prevent caving. In sandy or loose soil, the curb shall extend the full depth of the pit. In tight soils, partial curbing is acceptable if it prevents caving.
- (3) The privy floor slab shall be constructed of reinforced concrete. Where it is impractical to secure or construct reinforced concrete floor assemblies, wood construction shall be acceptable provided the floor slab is made of rough sub-flooring and covered with tight tongue-and-groove flooring or other type flooring materials to provide strength and prevent entrance of flies and mosquitoes to the privy pit. Where wood construction is used, floors shall be anchored to at least four-inch by four-inch sills.
- (4) Wood used for riser, seat assemblies, and the floor slab shall be tongue-and-groove or plywood (exterior or marine) material.
- (5) Privies shall not be used for the disposal of water-carried sewage.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. December 1, 1990.*

### **.1960 MAINTENANCE OF PRIVIES**

(a) Any person owning or controlling the property upon which a privy is located shall be responsible for these requirements:

- (1) The privy building shall afford a reasonable degree of protection from bad weather conditions.
  - (2) When the pit becomes filled to within 18 inches of the top of the ground, the privy building shall be moved to a new pit and the old pit completely covered with earth.
  - (3) If the pit caves in, a new pit shall be provided.
- (b) The tenant or person occupying the property shall be responsible for these requirements:
- (1) The walls, floors, and seat of the privy and grounds immediately adjacent to the building shall be kept in a clean and decent condition.
  - (2) Fowl and other animals shall not be harbored in the privy building.
  - (3) Seat cover shall be hinged and closed at all times when the privy is not in use.
  - (4) Flies shall be excluded from the pit at all times.
  - (5) Ashes, garbage, and trash shall be kept out of the pit.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

## **.1961 MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

(a) Any person owning or controlling the property upon which a ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal system is installed shall be responsible for the following items regarding the maintenance of the system:

- (1) Ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal systems shall be maintained at all times to prevent seepage or discharge of sewage or effluent to the surface of the ground or to surface waters.
- (2) Ground absorption sewage treatment and disposal systems shall be checked, and the contents of the septic tank removed, periodically to ensure proper operation of the system.

(b) System management in accordance with Tables V(a) and V(b) of this Rule shall be required for all systems installed or repaired after July 1, 1992. After July 1, 1992, system management in accordance with Tables V(a) and V(b) shall be required for all existing Type V and VI systems.

- (1) After July 1, 1991, no Improvement Permit shall be issued for Type IV, Type V, or Type VI systems, unless a management entity of the type specified in Table V(b) is specifically authorized, funded, and operational to carry out this management program in the service area where the proposed system is to be located.
- (2) A local health department may be a public management entity for systems classified Type IV, V(a) and V(b) only when specifically authorized by resolution of the local board of health.
- (3) A contract shall be executed between the system owner and a management entity prior to the issuance of an Operation Permit for a system required to be maintained by a public or private management entity. The contract shall include the specific requirements for maintenance and operation, responsibilities of the owner and system operator, provisions that the contract shall be in effect for as long as the system is in use, and other requirements for the continued proper performance of the system. It shall also be a condition of the Operation Permit that subsequent owners of the system execute such a contract.
- (4) Inspections of the system shall be performed by a management entity at the frequency specified in Table V(b). The management entity shall report the results of their inspections to the local health department at the specified reporting frequency. However, where inspections indicate the need for system repairs, the management entity shall notify the local health department within 48 hours in order to obtain an Improvement Permit for the repairs.
- (5) The management entity shall be responsible for assuring routine maintenance procedures in accordance with the conditions of the Operation Permit and the contract.
- (6) Sewage systems with multiple components shall be classified by their highest or most complex system type in accordance with Table V to determine local health department and management entity responsibilities.
- (7) Sewage systems not identified in this Rule shall be classified by the Division of Environmental Health after consultation with the appropriate commission governing operators of pollution control facilities.
- (8) The local health department shall routinely review the performance and operation reports submitted in accordance with Table V(b) of this Rule and shall perform an on-site inspection of the systems as required in Table V(a).
- (9) Nothing in this Section shall preclude any requirements for system operators imposed in accordance with Article 3 of G.S. 90A.

**TABLE V(a)  
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

| <u>System Classification</u> | <u>System Description</u>   | <u>Permits Required</u>                          | <u>Minimum System Review Frequency</u> |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Type I                       | a. Privy<br>b. Chemical toilet<br>c. Incinerating toilet<br>d. Other toilet system<br>e. Grease trap  | Improvement Permit and Operation Permit          | N/A                                    |
| Type II                      | a. Conventional septic system (single-family or 480 GPD or less)<br>b. Conventional septic system with 750 linear feet of nitrification line or less<br>c. Conventional system with shallow placement   | Improvement Permit and Certificate of Completion | N/A                                    |
| Type III                     | a. Conventional septic system >480 GPD (excluding single-family residence)<br>b. Septic system with single effluent pump or siphon<br>c. Gravity fill system<br>d. Dual gravity field system<br>e. PPBPS system, gravity dosed<br>f. Large diameter pipe system<br>g. Other non-conventional trench systems | Improvement Permit and Operation Permit          | 5 yrs.                                 |
| Type IV                      | a. Any system with LPP distribution<br>b. System with more than 1 pump or siphon  | Improvement Permit and Operation Permit          | 3 yrs.                                 |
| Type V                       | a. Sand filter pretreatment system<br>b. Any >3,000-GPD septic tank system with a nitrification field designed >1500 GPD<br>c. Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU)<br>d. Other mechanical, biological, or chemical pretreatment plant (<3000-GPD)  | Improvement Permit and Operation Permit          | 12 mos.                                |
| Type VI                      | a. Any > 3,000 GPD system with mechanical, biological, or chemical pretreatment system plant<br>b. Wastewater reuse/recycle   | Improvement Permit and Operation Permit          | 6 mos.                                 |

**TABLE V(b)  
MANAGEMENT ENTITY RESPONSIBILITIES**

| <u>System Classification</u> | <u>Management Entity</u>   | <u>Minimum System Inspection/Maintenance Frequency</u>   | <u>Reporting Frequency</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Type I                       | Owner  | N/A  | N/A                        |
| Type II                      | Owner  | N/A  | N/A                        |
| Type III                     | Owner  | N/A  | N/A                        |
| Type IV                      | Public Management Entity With a Certified Operator or a Private Certified Operator | 2/yr.  | 12 mos.                    |
| Type V<br>(a) & (b)          | Public Management Entity With a Certified Operator or a Private Certified Operator | a. 2/yr (0-1500 GPD)<br>4/yr (1500-3000 GPD)<br>12/yr (3000-10000 GPD)<br>1/wk (> 10000 GPD)                             | 6 mos.                     |
| (c) & (d)                    | Public Management Entity With Certified Operator                                   | b. 12/yr (3000-10000 GPD)<br>1/wk (>10000 GPD)<br>c. 4/yr<br>d. 12/yr  |                            |
| Type VI                      | Public Management Entity With a Certified Operator                                 | a. 1/wk(3000-10000 GPD)<br>2/wk(10000-25000 GPD)<br>3/wk(25000-50000 GPD)<br>5/wk(> 75000 GPD)<br>b. 12/yr.<br>c. 12/yr. | 3 mos.                     |

(c) A sewage collection, treatment, and disposal system that creates or has created a public health hazard or nuisance by surfacing of effluent or discharge directly into ground water or surface waters, or that is partially or totally destroyed shall be repaired within 30 days of notification by the state or local health department unless the notification otherwise specifies a repair period in writing. If a system described in the preceding sentence has for any reason been disconnected, the system shall be repaired prior to reuse. The state or local health department shall use its best professional judgment in requiring repairs that will reasonably enable the system to function properly. If, for any reason, a sewage collection, treatment, and disposal system is nonrepairable, the system shall not be used.

(d) When necessary to protect the public health, the state or local health department may require the owner or controller of a malfunctioning system to pump and haul sewage to an approved sanitary sewage system during the time needed to repair the system.

*History Note:* Filed as a Temporary Amendment Eff. July 3, 1991, for a Period of 180 Days to Expire on December 30, 1991; Filed as a Temporary Amendment Eff. June 30, 1990, for a Period of 180 Days to Expire on December 27, 1990, Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e) and (f); Eff. July 1, 1982; Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; October 1, 1990; January 1, 1990; August 1, 1988.

## **.1962 APPLICABILITY**

The provisions of this Section shall not apply to properly functioning sewage treatment and disposal systems in use or for which a valid permit has been issued prior to July 1, 1977. This provision is applicable only where the sewage flow and sewage characteristics are unchanged. This provision does not affect the requirements for system operation, maintenance, and management in accordance with Rule .1961 of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. August 1, 1991; December 1, 1990.*

### **.1963 DISUSE OF SEWAGE SYSTEM**

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Repealed Eff. August 1, 1988.*

### **.1964 INTERPRETATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

(a) The provisions of this Section shall be interpreted, as applicable, in accordance with the recognized principles and practices of soil science, geology, engineering, and public health.

(b) The State will provide technical assistance. Local health departments may obtain technical information and assistance from appropriate personnel as may be needed for interpretation of this Section.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1990.*

### **.1965 APPEALS PROCEDURE**

Appeals concerning the interpretation and enforcement of the rules in this Section shall be made in accordance with G.S. 150B and 10 NCAC 1B.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. February 1, 1987.*

### **.1966 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of these Rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the rules or the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.*

### **.1967 INJUNCTIONS**

A person who violates any Rule of this Section is subject to the injunctive relief provisions of G.S. 130A-18.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982.  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1985.*

## **.1968 PENALTIES**

A person who violates any Rule of this Section is subject to the penalty provisions in G.S. 130-22(c) (Administrative Penalties), 130A-23 (Suspension and Revocation of Permits), and 130A-25 (Criminal Penalties).

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.S. 130A-335(e);  
Eff. July 1, 1982;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 1985.*

## **.1969 EXPERIMENTAL AND INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS, COMPONENTS, OR DEVICES**

Experimental and innovative (E & I) systems are any wastewater systems, system components, or devices that are not specifically described in Rules .1955, .1956, .1957, or .1958 of this Section, including any system for which reductions are proposed in the minimum horizontal or vertical separation requirements or increases are proposed to the maximum long-term acceptance rates of this Section. This Rule shall provide for the approval and permitting of E & I systems.

(1) An application shall be submitted in writing to the State for an E & I system. The application shall include the following, as applicable:

- (a) specification of the type of approval requested as either innovative, experimental or both;
  - (b) description of the system, including materials used in construction, and its proposed use;
  - (c) summary of pertinent literature, published research, and previous experience and performance with the system;
  - (d) results of any available testing, research or monitoring of pilot systems or full-scale operational systems conducted by a third party research or testing organization;
  - (e) identity and qualifications of any proposed research or testing organization and the principal investigators, and an affidavit certifying that the organization and principal investigators have no conflict of interest and do not stand to gain financially from the sale of the E & I system;
  - (f) objectives, methodology, and duration of any proposed research or testing;
  - (g) specification of the number of systems proposed to be installed, the criteria for site selection, and system monitoring and reporting procedures;
  - (h) operation and maintenance procedures, system classification, proposed management entity and system operator;
  - (i) procedure to address system malfunction and replacement or premature termination of any proposed research or testing; and
  - (j) notification of any proprietary information, system, component, or device.
- (2) The State shall review all applications submitted and evaluate at the least the following:
- (a) the completeness of the application, and whether additional information is needed to continue the review;
  - (b) whether the system meets the standards of an innovative system under Paragraph (3) of this Rule, or whether the system meets the standards of an experimental system under Paragraph (4) of this Rule, as applicable.
- (3) **INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS:** Innovative systems shall be reviewed and approved by the State, and the local health department may permit innovative systems in accordance with the following:
- (a) The State shall approve the system as an innovative system if the following standards have been met:
    - (i) The system, shall have been demonstrated to perform equal or superior to a system, which is described in Rules .1955, .1956, .1957 or .1958, based upon controlled pilot-scale research studies or statistically-valid monitoring of full-scale operational systems.
    - (ii) Materials used in construction shall be equal or superior in physical properties and chemical

durability, compared to materials used for similar proposed systems, specifically described in Rules .1955, .1956, .1957 or .1958.

- (b) When a system is approved as innovative by the State, the applicant shall be notified in writing. Such notice shall include any conditions for use, monitoring, and operation.
- (c) A local health department shall issue an Improvement Permit for any innovative system approved by the State upon a finding that the provisions of this Rule including any conditions are met. Use of an innovative and any conditions shall be described on the Improvement Permit and the Certificate of Completion or Operation Permit.
- (4) **EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEMS:** A system may be approved for use as an experimental system as part of a research or testing program which has been approved by the State. The research or testing program shall be conducted by a third party research or testing organization which has knowledge and experience relevant to the proposed research or testing and has no conflict of interest and does not stand to gain financially from the sale of the proposed system.
  - (a) To be approved by the State, the proposed research or testing program shall include the following:
    - (i) The research program shall be designed such that, if the objectives are met, the system would satisfy the standards for approval as an innovative system under Paragraph (3) of this Rule.
    - (ii) Research design and testing methodology shall have a reasonable likelihood of meeting the objectives.
  - (b) The State shall notify the applicant and the applicable local health departments when the proposed research or testing program has been approved for an experimental system. Such notice shall include, but not be limited to, conditions for siting, operation, monitoring and maintenance, and number of systems which can be installed.
  - (c) A local health department may issue an Improvement Permit for an experimental system when the following conditions are met:
    - (i) There is an application for an Improvement Permit in accordance with Rule .1937(c) of this Section, with the proposed use of an experimental system specified.
    - (ii) The proposed site is included as part of an approved research or testing program and any conditions specified for use of the system have been met.
    - (iii) When an experimental system is proposed to serve a residence, place of business or place of public assembly, there shall be a repair area using a non-experimental backup system in accordance with the provisions of Rule .1945(b) of this Section, except:
      - (A) When an existing and properly functioning wastewater system is available for immediate use, including connection to a public or community wastewater system; or
      - (B) When the experimental system is used as a repair to an existing malfunctioning system; or
      - (C) When the experimental system is to serve a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis and designed to be used as a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly without a permanent foundation, in which case sufficient available space shall be reserved for the installation of a replacement system at least equal to the initial experimental system.
    - (iv) When an experimental system is proposed which shall not serve a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly, a repair area or backup system shall not be required.
    - (v) The application for an experimental system shall include statements that the property owner is aware of its experimental nature, that the local health department and State do not guarantee or warrant that these systems will function in a satisfactory manner for any period of time, and that use of the system may need to be discontinued if the system malfunctions and is found to be non-repairable, or if the proposed research or testing program is prematurely terminated. Such statements shall be signed by the owner.

- (vi) The owner of the site on which an experimental system is proposed shall execute a easement granting rights of access to the system at reasonable hours for monitoring and evaluation to the research or testing organization. This easement shall specify that it is granted for the purposes of researching and testing an experimental wastewater system and shall remain valid as long as the system is to be part of the proposed research or testing program. The easement shall be recorded with the county register of deeds.
- (vii) Provisions shall be made for operation and maintenance of the system.
- (viii) Any special conditions required for installation of the experimental system shall be specified in the Improvement Permit. Use of an experimental system and any conditions shall be described on the Improvement Permit and any subsequent operation permits, with provisions for a repair area and backup system specified. A condition of the Improvement Permit shall be that the installation be under the direct field supervision of the research or testing organization.
- (ix) The proposed Improvement Permit and any subsequent operation permits for experimental systems shall be reviewed by the State and found to be consistent with the approved research or testing program prior to issuance by the local health department.
- (d) Upon completion of the installation and prior to use, an Experimental System Operation Permit (ESOP) shall be issued by the local health department. The ESOP shall be valid for a specified period of time not to exceed five years. Special maintenance, monitoring and testing requirements shall be specified as permit conditions, in accordance with the approved research or testing program. Failure to carry out these conditions shall be grounds for permit suspension or revocation.
- (e) Prior to expiration of the ESOP and based upon satisfactory system performance as determined during the research or testing program, the local health department shall issue an Operation Permit. Premature termination of the research or testing program shall be grounds for ESOP suspension or revocation.
- (f) Upon completion of monitoring, research and testing, the research or testing organization shall prepare a final report including recommendations on future use of the system. If the State determines that the results indicate that the standards of Paragraph (3) of this Rule are met, the State shall approve the use as an innovative system.
- (5) Any proposed changes or modifications in the E & I system shall be submitted for review and approval by the State.
- (6) The State shall suspend or revoke the approval of an E & I system upon a finding as follows:
  - (a) The information submitted in the application is falsified.
  - (b) subsequent experience with the system results in altered conclusions about system performance or design.
- (7) Suspension or revocation of an E & I System approval shall not affect systems previously installed pursuant to the approval.

*History Note: Statutory Authority G.s. 103A-335(e) and (f); 130A-343  
Eff. April 1, 1993.*