

KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH ORDINANCE 2008-01

ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM AND GENERAL SEWAGE SANITATION REGULATIONS

**Policy #27: Allowance for Providing Temporary or Periodic Relief for a Drainfield Lateral (i.e., Turning a Drainfield Lateral "Off")**

**Effective Date: April 1, 2011**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to outline the conditions and requirements for allowing a poorly functioning or failing drainfield lateral to be temporarily or periodically "shut off" from receiving sewage effluent so that it can rest and recover to full functioning status, and/or to provide time for system troubleshooting.

This policy is not intended to provide or allow for the permanent shut down, or complete elimination of use, of a drainfield lateral. Extended or permanent shut down of a drainfield lateral is a modification of the approved sewage permit, and as such shall require Health Officer approval, via a proposed repair plan from a licensed designer/engineer, in order to become official. It is the intent of this policy that drainfield laterals that are determined to be broken and un-repairable shall be replaced via approval of the Health District. The Health District may allow replacement of the lateral according to the rules and regulations in effect at the time of system installation on a case-by-case basis.

Anytime a septic system is modified to operate in a manner different from the conditions of the approved sewage permit, the system shall be considered as "non-conforming" until approved otherwise by the Health District. A system is considered as "non-conforming" for the duration of time that a lateral is turned off plus an additional 12 months following the return of the lateral to full functioning status until it can be demonstrated that the cause of the dispersal problem has been identified and corrected.

Drainfields that were voluntarily and purposefully oversized with respect to the minimum required design flow are exempt from this policy provided that the minimum required drainfield area, with respect to the design flow, is available and in use.

**Policy:** A drainfield lateral that is experiencing distribution or dispersal problems may be temporarily or periodically shut - off from receiving sewage effluent, to provide relief and recovery while the cause of the dispersal problem is investigated, without Health Officer approval under the following conditions:

1. The lateral is shut-off by the owner or a certified/licensed septic designer, installer, or maintenance provider only;
2. The owner or their certified/licensed septic designer, installer, or maintenance provider formally reports the disabled lateral to the Health District through a Minor Repair Report Form or Monitoring & Maintenance Inspection Report;
3. The cause of the dispersal problem is under active investigation by the owner and/or certified/licensed septic contractor;

4. If the system is required to have a monitoring and maintenance service contract, the maintenance specialist is required to mark the drainfield as “deficient” for all reports completed while the lateral is turned off;
5. The Health District shall mark and identify the system as “non-conforming” until the problematic lateral is repaired and functional, or replaced, as approved by the Health District.

