Policy #29: Drainfield Aeration

Effective Date: June 1, 2011, last revised 3/16/2016

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedures for applying subsurface aeration to prevent or reduce excessive plugging of the infiltrative surface of the drainfield soils.

Policy: The following policy and procedures shall be adhered to when applying the aeration remediation method to an onsite sewage system (OSS):

1. See Figure 1 to determine the eligibility of property and/or septic system for aeration.

2. Any OSS found to be in a state of failure shall be mitigated to the extent that the imminent public health hazard has been reduced prior to applying the aeration procedure.

3. The aeration must be performed by a Kitsap Public Health District certified monitoring and maintenance specialist or septic installer.

4. Aeration may be applied no deeper than 12 inches below the infiltrative surface of the dispersal trench.

5. Pre-aeration procedure:

   A. The aeration provider must have the property owner completely fill out the Kitsap Public Health District Repair Survey form, which is to be turned in with the Aeration report form.

   B. Provide an aeration acknowledgment and agreement to the owner for signature. Include, at minimum, the following information:

      i. Notification that a single year Monitoring & Maintenance contract, with a Health District certified Monitoring & Maintenance Specialist, must be in place within 10 days after the aeration is completed. The contract must include 2 inspections, one at 6 months and the final one at 12 months.

      ii. A section for the owner to acknowledge that the aeration procedure may cause harm to the dispersal system, ultimately resulting in replacement of the entire onsite sewage system.

   C. 24-48 hours prior to initiation of the aeration procedure, the contractor shall call the permit hotline to inform the Health District of the following:
i. Your company name.

ii. Where the aeration will be performed.

iii. What day the aeration procedure will be performed.

6. Post-aeration procedure requirements:

   A. The certified contractor shall provide the aeration report to the Health District within 5 working days of completion of the procedure. The report shall include the following attachments:

      i. The completely filled out Kitsap County Health District Repair Survey Form.

      ii. A scaled site plan for all properties where no records of onsite sewage system permit exist including a detailed post aeration drawing of the onsite sewage system, indicating where the aeration procedure was applied.

      iii. A copy of the signed owner acknowledgment.

   B. The property owner shall maintain a Monitoring & Maintenance contract with a Health District certified Monitoring & Maintenance Specialist for a period of no less than 1 year, commencing from the date of aeration procedure, subsequently following the requirements of KPHD ORD 2008A-01, Section 13.C.
Figure 1.
Guidelines for Determination of Minor Repair/Remediation/Replacement - Correction for a Deficient or Failing Onsite Sewage System

Is there a record of an approved installation permit for the onsite sewage system?

- No
  - Does the system meet the minimum setback and construction requirements of Policy #10?
    - Yes
      - Minor repair PRIOR to the drainfield and/or aeration ok following applicable policy
    - No
      - Have there been changes to the conditions of permit approval (e.g., drainfield encroachment, property line change, drainage issues)?
        - Yes
          - Can the conditions be addressed (e.g., easement, curtain drain?)
            - No
              - Replacement Required
            - Yes
              - Minor repair and/or aeration ok following applicable policy
        - No
          - Minor repair including drainfield work or aeration proposed?
            - Yes
              - Remediation ok following policy, must provide complete diagnosis and discovery
            - No
              - Yes