



Program Director's Message

HHE-200 Form Revision Dates

Our last newsletter stated that only HHE-200 forms bearing the latest revision date should be accepted for designs completed after October 1, 2002. While we would prefer that the most current version of the forms be utilized, given the minor nature of the last revisions the following form dates are acceptable for issuance of a plumbing permit :

Page 1 – 01/99; and 08/01

Page 2 – 07/97; 08/01; and 10/02

Page 3 – 07/97; 08/01; and 10/02

The Department will continue to sell the preprinted pads until the current supply is exhausted, and accept the forms from those pads. Plumbing inspectors should check the date the site evaluation was completed on all applications for permit and require that designs more than two years old be reviewed and updated, if necessary, by a licensed site evaluator. The site evaluator does not need to transfer the design to a new HHE-200 form unless in their judgment redrafting is necessary to comply with the current rules.

Voluntary System Inspection Program

Training for the voluntary system inspection program is nearly complete. These inspections will be performed at the time of property transfer by individuals attending one of the four training sessions. Report forms will be sent to these individuals along with a certification document, and will be available on our web site. Voluntarily certified individuals will be asked to report annually on the number of inspections done and the number of malfunctions identified. Actual report forms will not go to the Department or to the municipality.

Premature System Failures

We often receive anecdotal accounts of perceived problems with construction procedures, products, and proprietary devices causing premature failure of subsurface wastewater disposal systems. Without specific data, there is little we can do to modify code requirements or require changes in approved proprietary devices. If in the course of your work, you repeatedly encounter problems with a procedure, product, or device that may warrant action through the rules we would be happy to investigate if appropriate information is provided to our office.

Minimum Lot Size Law Modified

Action by the legislature recently modified the MLSL. The bill was presented on behalf of the Mid-Coast Code Inspectors Association. This law, approved by the Committee on natural Resources will authorize the Local Plumbing Inspector in the municipalities and unorganized territories to approve the installation of subsurface wastewater disposal systems on lots that are less than 20,000 square feet providing certain criteria are met. These criteria are: a) Must have a current HHE 200 form, b) the system meets "first time" requirements, and c) the system is not an engineered disposal system. If the criteria are not met, the approving body is the Department of Human Services. The law also authorizes the municipality to charge a review fee not to exceed \$50 per review. This law will become effective 90 days after the legislature

adjourns (on or about mid-September but could be earlier). This law did not change the DHS review for less than 100' of frontage. Check our home page for details.

Law Regarding Water Meter Installations Clarified

The Maine Legislative Committee on Business Regulation and economic Development, on March 20, 2003, preliminarily approved a statute change in LD 1004, An Act To Clarify the Status of Regulated Water Utility Plumbing Permits. Simply stated this action would exempt trained water utility personnel (water districts, water departments, and private water companies such as Consumers Water Company) from obtaining a plumbing permit when installing a water meter, with or without a backflow device. An amendment was added to require advanced notice to the homeowner that the installation of a water meter and backflow device may create problems related to increases in water pressure such as the possible need for an expansion tank.

The Division of Health Engineering for over 30 years has allowed water utility personnel to install such water meters, with or without non testable backflow devices and this has never been challenged. Last year it was challenged and this is the result. Essentially the status quo has been restored. Check our home page for details.

Engineered System Designs

Over the past years the Program has noted a trend for Site Evaluators to collaborate with Professional Engineers on the design of engineered disposal systems. We consider the PE to be the "prime professional" for the design team and expect all communication with this office regarding an engineered system design to be with the PE. The Program requires a pre-application meeting with the PE prior to submission of any engineered systems application to ensure that all issues relating to the specific design will be addressed in the final submission, and that the appropriate professionals will be utilized on the project as necessary.

Site Evaluators are reminded that they are not licensed to design engineered systems, e.g., systems with design flows of 2,000 gallons per day or greater, under provisions of Chapter 11 of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules.

If approached by a PE to join the design team for an engineered system project, the Site Evaluator should advise the PE that they can act as a subcontractor for soils related aspects of the project, but that their assistance with the system design will depend on the needs of the PE and their individual abilities. As soon as a PE reviews, stamps and signs a design they assume *full* responsibility for the design's accuracy and are accountable for ensuring the system is installed according to the design.

Temporary LPI Appointments

Under provisions of Section 2-A of the Rules for Appointment and Administration of Local Plumbing Inspectors (CMR 240), an individual may be temporarily authorized in writing by the Department of Human Services, Division of Health Engineering to be employed as an Local Plumbing Inspector (LPI) for a period not to exceed 6 months.

This provision is used in those instances where a municipality is without an LPI, an a person is willing to do the job but is not yet certified by the State Planning Office. It is the responsibility of the temporarily authorized person to complete their certification within the 6 month period. Failure to become certified within the six month period shall result in expiration of the temporary certification.

The Department will coordinate appointments with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Plumbers' Examining Board, and SPO prior to temporary authorization.

Water Softener Discharges

A recurring question the Program receives concerns proper disposal of backwash water from residential water softeners. Specifically, people want to know whether they should add the backwash discharges from water softeners to their onsite sewage disposal systems.

It is the Program's position that backwash discharges do not fall under the definition of "wastewater" in the Rules, but rather, it is principally clean, mineral laden water. It should be treated similarly to hot tub waste and discharged to a separate disposal area (ref.: Section 202.2.3 of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal

Rules). Absent local ordinances to the contrary or erosion and sedimentation concerns, this water could be used for irrigation purposes as well.

Site Evaluator News and Information

The 2003, Part 1, Site Evaluator Licensing Exam (the written portion) will be given Wednesday, April 30th, tentatively here in the Division's 161 Capital St. office in Augusta. We say tentatively because it depends on the number persons taking the exam and the space available in our Office.

All exam applications must be received by the Division's office NO LATER than Friday, April 18th. Needless to say the Application must not only be complete, but more importantly meet the exam criteria and be acceptable to the Licensing Program.

If you should have questions regarding exam and/or exam qualifications please contact Jay Hardcastle, State Site Evaluator @ 207-287-5688, or better yet e-mail jay.hardcastle@maine.gov.

Recently Approved Products

The following products have been approved since the September 2002 newsletter. Contact James Jacobsen with any questions.

Knight Treatment Systems White Knight.

The White Knight has received General Use approval. The device consists of a 12 inch diameter hexagonal plastic tube within which is a four inch diameter plastic tube filled with loose fill plastic media. A remote air pump feeds air to a proprietary diffuser beneath the media. A biological film is generated, which adheres to the plastic media and provides treatment of water-borne contaminants. The White Knight is inserted into conventional septic tanks, and a proprietary inoculant is introduced at regular intervals. An outlet filter prevents solids carryover. Contact: EnviroCheck Inc., P. O. Box 6480, Scarborough, ME 04070-6480, tel. 1-800-675-0851. The device requires a permit as "Miscellaneous Component", and would be issued by the Local Plumbing Inspector, similar to issuance of a septic tank only permit.

Piranaco Pirana

The Pirana has received General Use approval. The device consists of a 12 inch diameter hexagonal plastic tube within which is a four inch diameter plastic tube filled with cusped plastic sheets. A remote air pump feeds air to a proprietary diffuser beneath the cusped plates. A biological film is generated, which adheres to the plastic sheets and provides treatment of water-borne contaminants. The Pirana is inserted into conventional septic tanks, and a proprietary inoculant is introduced at regular intervals. An outlet filter prevents solids carryover. Contact: Sunstream Environmental, Attn.: Tom Caron, 122 Old Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04074, tel. (207) 885-9538. The device requires a permit as "Miscellaneous Component", and would be issued by the Local Plumbing Inspector, similar to issuance of a septic tank only permit.

Delta Environmental Products, Inc., Whitewater Home Aerobic Treatment Units

The Delta Environmental Products, Inc., Whitewater Home Aerobic Treatment Units, DF Series consists of a watertight tank with an integral aeration unit and a conical settling cone. The Delta Environmental Products, Inc., Whitewater Home Aerobic Treatment Units, DF Series is designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal areas and drip irrigation disposal areas. Contact: Wastewater Services, Corp., Attn.: Bob Johnson, P. O. Box 1358, Waterville, ME 04903-1358, tel. (207) 873-3233.

SNS Group Inc., Juggler

The Juggler consists of a two compartment pumper truck with a proprietary solids removal device designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal system septic tanks. The Juggler pumps septic tank supernatant into one tank and sludge and other solids into the second tank. The supernatant is then filtered using a proprietary ultrasonic device, and pumped back in to the septic tank. Solids from the filtered supernatant are then pumped to the sludge tank for final disposal. Contact: SNS Group Inc., Attn.: Robert

Pozer, Production Manager, 785 rue Guy-Poulin, Suite 202, Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce, PQ G0S 2V0, Canada

ZABEL AeroCell and SCAT Systems

The ZABEL AeroCell and SCAT Systems are trickling filters that consist of plastic cylinders containing open cell foam and effluent spray nozzles, arranged in two or more cylinders in series; and one self-contained module containing open cell foam and a spray nozzle, respectively. The AeroCell modules are designed to recirculate 80% of the treated effluent back to the septic tank via a separate pump station. The ZABEL AeroCell and SCAT Systems are designed for use with conventional onsite sewage disposal areas. Plumbing, dosing, and recirculation rates are dependant upon specific installation criteria. Contact: ZABEL Environmental Technology, P. O. Box 1520, 6244 Old LaGrange Road, Crestwood KY 40014.

Wedco Plastic Septic Tanks

The following Wedco plastic septic tanks have been approved for use in Maine: WP2300H, WP2700H, WP3400H, WP3600H, WR4000H, WP5000H, WH5211, WH9000, WP2300, WP2700, WP3400, WR3400, WP3600, WP4000 and WP5000. Contact: Waterfall Distributors, Attn.: Henry Caouette, P. O. Box 175, Mechanic Falls, ME 04256 tel. (207) 786-0264.

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