



PUBLIC HEALTH
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HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Chelan-Douglas Health District

200 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Personal Health: 509/886-6400 • FAX 886-6478

Environmental Health: 509/886-6450 • FAX 886-6449

Maternal Child Health: 509/886-6400 • FAX 886-6436

Memorandum

To: Jamie Wallace, Realtor's Assoc. President

From: Marc Marquis, Environmental Health Director

Date: August 10, 2007

Re: New Septic System Inspection & Disclosure Requirements

Effective July 1, 2007, WAC 246-272A-0270 requires routine operations and maintenance inspections (O&M) for all septic systems in Washington State. This service is required annually for pressurized systems and once every 3 years for traditional gravity systems. Under these new provisions, homeowners are responsible for insuring that O&M inspections occur **AND** disclosing documentation of required servicing at the time of property sale. Local health departments are not provided with authority to enforce compliance with these requirements.

O&M inspections go well beyond traditionally required septic tank pumping. Inspectors must insure systems are operating as designed by checking fluid levels, pumps, filters, timers, float mechanisms, effluent flow, and wastewater treatment quality. Numerous local private industry professionals are interested in performing this service and have attend state sponsored training sessions. However, no individuals are currently licensed by the Health District to conduct O&M.

To avoid frustrating real estate transactions, the Health District would like to establish local licensing & training requirements for O&M inspectors. A publicly accessible web-based reporting system is already available for maintaining inspection results at www.eOnsite.net. For a nominal service fee, private inspectors can upload inspection results. Other jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region have had great success with this system. Private inspectors also reportedly like this system b/c it provides them with an economical tool for managing their client's accounts.

Implementing the above described services will require the affirmative support of interested parties such as the Realtor's Association. If authorized, the Health District is prepared to quickly initiate these services.