

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM**DCHP-16-004**

DATE: April 8, 2016

TO: Health Department Directors/Administrators/Health Officers
ATTN: Environmental Health and Environmental Engineering Directors

THROUGH: Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, State Toxicologist & Chief
Bureau of Environmental Health

FROM: Ed Barranco, MPH, CEHP, CPM, Environmental Administrator
Onsite Sewage Programs

SUBJECT: Implementation of Septage Land Application Prohibition

Beginning June 30, 2016, in accordance with section 381.0065(6), Florida Statutes, the land application of septage from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems will be prohibited. This memorandum is guidance for handling permit amendments, stabilization facilities, surveillance and enforcement.

Permitting*New or Renewed Prior to 6/30/2016*

Any new or renewed septage disposal service permit applied for prior to June 30, 2016, must indicate a legal method of disposal for the entire one-year life of the permit. If the septage disposal company indicates a stabilization and land application facility regulated by DOH, they must also include the name and address of a facility regulated by DEP and a letter from that facility indicating that they will accept their septage once the ban goes into effect.

Expiring on or after 6/30/16

For currently issued septage disposal service permits that expire on or after June 30, 2016, the applicant is required to contact DOH in the county the business resides prior to June 30, 2016, and supply an alternate approved disposal site, including a letter from the site operator indicating that they will accept their septage. The service permit will need to be amended to reflect this information. An amendment fee is not required when the amendment is solely the result of the septage land application ban. Failure to provide this information before June 30, 2016, will result in suspension or revocation of the service permit.

Compliance monitoring suggestions

If you are actively invoicing, you can place a flag on the permits to prevent online payment and printing without review from your office. If you have already invoiced and they have not yet paid, you could flag the permit through the Entity Manager page in the EHD.

Inspection Fees

For the annual fee for the septage stabilization facility inspection fees, two options exist:

Florida Department of Health

Division of Disease Control & Health Protection • Bureau of Environmental Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710
PHONE: 850/245-4250 • FAX: 850/487-0864

www.FloridaHealth.gov

TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla

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- 1) If the department has or will be conducting the evaluation/inspection, the fee has been used and no refund will be available.
- 2) If no evaluation/inspection or evaluation is expected, a refund may be appropriate.

Septage Treatment, Stabilization Facilities, and Septage Storage Tanks

Repurposed Facilities

Existing DOH-regulated, septage-stabilization, facilities may be repurposed to store or blend septage. Repurposed facilities must be maintained in a nuisance-free condition. Addition of lime at the storage facility to reduce odors is not prohibited. All septage received, stored, or blended is required to be disposed of at a DEP-regulated facility.

Please note: The septage service company operating the repurposed facility must request a letter from the DEP facility receiving the stored or blended septage indicating their acceptance of this septage and must provide a copy to DOH. Repurposed facilities would be regulated as storage facilities and be inspected as part of the equipment used by septage haulers under the septage disposal service permit fee. Additional inspection of the facilities will occur only as a result of a sanitary nuisance complaint investigation.

Converted Facilities

If the facility chooses, they could convert into a DEP-regulated, biosolids-stabilization, facility. Complete conversion would need to occur prior to 6/30/2016 to continue to accept septage. These facilities would need to be identified as such on the service company's amended application form. Operators are advised to contact their DEP District Office for guidance regarding becoming regulated by DEP.

Abandoned Facilities

Existing facilities that are not converted to a DEP-regulated facility or repurposed as a DOH facility to store or blend septage shall be abandoned.

Septage treatment or storage tanks that are taken out of service (no longer listed and inspected as part of the equipment on a septage handler's application) shall be emptied of septage and cleaned sufficiently to not attract vectors, create odors, or cause a sanitary nuisance.

The following guidance for abandonment is suggested:

- For buried tanks, treat them as you would an abandoned septic tank.
- For open, above-ground tanks, remove or crush and bury.

Notification

Please mail the enclosed letter to septage haulers to the septage haulers that are permitted in your county.

Surveillance

After 6/30/2016, DOH in each affected county must inspect the septage treatment and land application facilities to ensure they have been properly shut-down and that no sanitary nuisance exists at the site. We encourage notification of neighbors around the closed land application site so they can contact your office if they observe re-use of the site.

Enforcement

If enforcement is needed for a site in your county, we suggest the following:

- Coordinate with your regional DEP office regarding enforcement at non-permitted land application sites.
- Consult with legal staff regarding enforcement steps for non-compliance with the prohibition.
- Contact your program office with any questions.

Enclosure