

Mission:

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



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM**DCEH 13-004**

DATE: July 3, 2013

TO: Bob Eadie, Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Monroe County
ATTN: Bill Brookman, Environmental Health Director

THROUGH: C. Meade Grigg, Deputy Secretary for Statewide Services

FROM: Patti Anderson, MSc, P.E., Chief, Bureau of Environmental Health

SUBJECT: Implementation of 2013 Legislation – Florida Keys

House Bill 375 and House Bill 7019 both amend s. 381.0065, Florida Statutes, in regards to the permitting standards for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in the Florida Keys. In addition HB 7019 contains language in regard to the extension of building permits and permits from FDEP that does not impact FDOH. The changes in 381.0065, FS, are:

1. Modification of the Total Nitrogen standard to recognize a 70 percent reduction is considered to be in compliance with the 10 mg/L standard recognizing that such systems are certified by the National Sanitation Foundation to a specific percent reduction not a numeric standard.
2. There are no changes to the standards in areas not scheduled to be sewered by December 31, 2015. All systems in those areas must comply with Department rules and provide the appropriate level of treatment by that date. New systems and systems being repaired or modified must meet standards in s. 381.0065(4)(l)2., F.S. Any action requiring your review and approval triggers the requirement to upgrade the existing system to this standard.
3. In areas scheduled to be sewered by December 31, 2015, if the property owner has paid a connection or assessment fee, you may permit a stationary holding tank or a conventional system with a sand lined drainfield or injection well using the current standards in Part II, Chapter 64E-6, FAC. The owner must provide you documentation from the appropriate sewer utility of the scheduled connection date and payment of the connection or assessment fee. The minimum capacity holding tank is 900 gallons. A high water alarm is required. Portable holding tanks cannot be used.
4. Owners whose nitrogen reduction system was installed after July 1, 2010, in unincorporated Monroe County, excluding special districts (Key Largo Waste Water Utility), that complies with standards in s. 381.0065(4)(l)2., F.S., are not required to connect to central sewer until December 31, 2020.

Please note that HB 375 also has changes that impact the statewide management of aerobic treatment units and performance based treatment systems. Those changes are addressed in a separate memorandum. Please provide a copy of this memorandum to contractors working in your county. If you have any questions, please contact Gerald Briggs at (850) 245-4070.

Florida Department of Health

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