

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SEWAGE OR WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS:

Under The provisions of R.S.A. 147:1, the following regulations for governing the installation, inspection and maintenance of Sewage or Waste Disposal Systems for the health and safety of the people of Windham are hereby adopted. These regulations are in addition to Chapter Env-Ws 1000 Subdivision and Sewage Disposal System Design Rules, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

100.0 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems.

101.0 Objective:

To provide an adequate and safe sewage disposal installation which is located and constructed so as to avoid contamination of the environment, including existing or future water supplies.

102.0 General:

102.1 Sewage or Waste Disposal system shall consist of a septic tank, a distribution box, an acceptable absorption system, (subsurface absorption field or subsurface absorption bed), or other system approved by the Health Officer.

102.2 No soil absorption disposal system shall be located within seventy-five feet (75') of any drinking water supply. A separation distance greater than 75' may be required if, based on the opinion of the Health Officer, greater separation is warranted based on evaluation of the particular design in meeting the intent of the Ordinance.

102.3 All septic systems shall meet NHDES requirements and receive approval by the Windham Health Officer.

103.0 Location and Installation:

103.1 Fill required to raise the bottom of the leaching area above the seasonal high ground water table, impermeable strata or ledge shall be a minimum of four feet (4') of clean, coarse, bank run sand, free of top soil, loam or stones larger than six inches. Washed septic sand with no more than 5% silt can be used in place of bank run sand. Four feet of suitable fill may be reduced to three feet when it can be demonstrated to the Health Officer that soils, slopes, and septic system design can function efficiently with the reduced fill. In no case should the reduction from four feet to three feet be allowed if it does not meet NHDES standards.

Additional fill which would provide greater vertical separation may be required if, based on the opinion of the Health Officer, greater separation is warranted based on evaluation of the particular design in meeting the intent of the Ordinance.

103.2 Holding tanks or closed systems will be approved as a replacement for an existing system in failure when all other means of disposal is impossible. Such tanks shall meet NHDES requirements for waterproofing and alarm system to indicate when the tank must be pumped.

103.3 The use of holding tanks shall not be approved for the purpose of converting from seasonal uses to year round uses.

103.4 Final approval of any septic system serving uses which requires a community water system, shall be subject to applicable NHDES setback requirements and not be granted approval until the community well water source, quality, quantity, has received approval from the NHDES.

103.5 No test pits shall be left open after the necessary soil data has been obtained unless otherwise requested by the Health Officer. All test pit areas shall be returned to their natural grade and appearance upon completion and documentation of each test.

103.6 In addition to the NHDES inspection requirements, the Health Officer may require an open test pit adjacent to a leaching area at the time of inspection of the system prior to its covering, in order to determine if the system has been constructed according to the approved plans.

103.7 Repair and replacement of existing non-commercial septic systems may be repaired or replaced "in kind" without submission of plans subject to the NHDES restrictions listed in Env-Ws 1003.10. "In kind" means that the size, location, depth and type of design that existed before repair and/or replacement and that of the proposed use will not change the flow increase.

The NHDES restrictions include but are not limited to, the existing system has to be at least 75 feet away from surface waters, water supply wells and be no closer than 24 inches to the seasonal high water table, other wise plans have to be submitted and approved as per Env-Ws 1003.10 (c). A written report by the septic installer is required detailing the existing septic information and the reason for the system failure.

104.0 Septic Tank and Other Structures:

104.1 Designs shall meet NHDES requirements and provide adequate volume for settling for sludge and scum storage and access for cleaning. The structural designs and materials used shall be in accordance with generally accepted good engineering practice, providing a sound, durable tank which will safely sustain all dead and live loads and liquid and earth pressure involved in each case. The Health Officer may require a test for water tightness as evidence that construction meets this objective.

104.2 Provide sufficient soil over the top of a septic tank and other underground structures to permit grass growth and to control odors. Minimum depth below finish grade, six inches (6") and shall be no more than eighteen inches (18") below finish grade, unless otherwise approved by the Health Officer.

105.0 Subsurface Absorption Field/Bed:

105.1 If required an effective approved filter shall be placed over the system to prevent infiltration of backfill.

105.2 In a pipe in stone system, there shall be twelve inches (12") of approved septic stone under the pipe.

106:0 Additional Information for Septic design for Individual Lots

106.1 Benchmarks shall be established on each lot, and location shown on the plan.

106.2 Location of any paved area, driveways and other accesses to public ways.

106.3 A profile of driveways and other accesses to public ways at a scale of 1/4 inch equal to one foot (1/4"=1') showing the driveway and other accesses to the public way from the center of the public way to the termination of the driveway or other access.

106.4 The sheet size of all septic plans will be drawn on 22" by 34" with separate sheets numbered and showing relationship to each other.

106.5 These regulations are in addition to CHAPTER Env-Ws 1000 SUBDIVISION AND INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM DESIGN, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

107.0 Permitting, Enforcement, and Fee:

107.1 No sewage disposal system shall be installed, altered, or repaired in the Town of Windham, New Hampshire, unless in conformity with the above regulations.

107.2 A permit for the installation and/or alteration of sewage or waste disposal system shall be obtained from the Planning and Development Department prior to any work on any system.

107.3 A permit fee will be charged according to the fee schedule approved by the Board of Selectmen.

108.0 Waivers

108.1 Waivers may be granted only as follows: The Board of Health may vary the application of these regulations with respect to any particular case when, in its opinion the enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice, and the applicant has proven that the same degree of public health and environmental protection required under these regulations can be achieved without strict application of a particular provision(s).

109.0: Unconstitutionality Clause

109.1 So far as the Board of Selectmen may provide, each section of these rules and regulations shall be construed as separate to the end that if any section, item, sentence, clause or phrase shall be held invalid for any reason, the remainder of these rules and regulations shall continue in full force and effect.

110.0 Effective Date:

110.1 These regulations shall take effect upon approval by the Board of Selectmen, publication and receipt by the Town Clerk, Town of Windham, NH.

Adopted by the Board of Health –

Amended by the Board of Health – February 28, 2000

Amended by the Board of Selectmen – February 7, 2006

Amended by the Board of Selectmen – April 3, 2006

Amended by the Board of Selectmen – July 17, 2006

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