

To: Rowan County Board of Commissioners

From: Nina Oliver, Public Health Director
Tad Helmstetler, Environmental Health Supervisor

Date: September 30, 2016

Re: Engineered Option Septic Permit

Situation:

On July 1st 2016 a new method of obtaining a septic permit for a property became effective. This method is called an Engineered Option Permit (15A NCAC 18A .1971). The purpose is to allow the client to have options. A person choosing this method is to employ a Professional Engineer and Licensed Soil Scientist to prepare drawings, specifications, plans and reports for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the system.

Background:

The new permitting process will allow Licensed Soil Scientists and Professional Engineers to design and install septic systems. The Health Department involvement will be limited. The legislation allows local health departments to charge a fee equal to 30% of their normal site evaluation and permitting fees for this type of system (15A NCAC 18A .1971).

Assessment:

Environmental Health believes that there will not be a large demand for this type of system in Rowan County due to the Engineered Option being much higher in cost. In the event that these systems are requested, the General Statute allows county health departments to charge up to 30% of their normal evaluation and permitting fees for the county's involvement with the system. Rowan County's current evaluation and permitting fee is \$225.00, so we can charge up to \$67.50 for our participation in this process.

The local health department responsibilities of an Engineered Option Permit are:

- (1) Perform a completeness review of the Notice of Intent to Construct to verify inclusion of information required by this Rule and indicate written verification of completeness determination;
- (2) Attend the post-construction conference to observe location of system components and start-up conditions;
- (3) Provide written confirmation of Authorization to Operate upon receipt of complete information required by this Rule;
- (4) File all EOP documentation consistent with current permit filing procedures at the local health department;

- (5) Submit a copy of the final Notice of Intent common form and written confirmation of Authorization to Operate to the Department;
- (6) Review the performance and operation reports submitted in accordance with Table V(b) of Rule .1961 of this Section;
- (7) Perform on-site compliance inspections of the wastewater system in accordance with Table V(a) of Rule .1961 of this Section;
- (8) Investigate EOP system complaints;
- (9) Issue a notice of violation for systems determined to be malfunctioning in accordance with Rule.1961(a) of this Section. The LHD shall direct the owner to contact the design professional engineer, project licensed soil scientist, licensed geologist, and contractor, as appropriate, for determination of the reason of the malfunction and development of a Notice of Intent to Construct for repairs; and
- (10) Require an owner receiving a notice of violation to pump and haul sewage in accordance with Rule .1961(m) of this Section.

Recommendation:

Rowan County Environmental Health respectfully recommends implementing a fee of \$ 67.50 for our required participation in the new Engineer Option Permit to off set our costs of reviewing submitted data and attending the post-installation conference. The Rowan County Board of Health approved this recommendation on September 20th 2016.