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Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules 144A CMR 241 January 18, 2011

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/144/144c241.doc>

Current rules in the State of Maine were last updated on January 18, 2011. The Rules for Appointment and Administration of Local Plumbing Inspectors (CMR 240) and Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units Into Year-Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone (CMR 242) also were updated on January 18, 2011.

The Rules are entirely prescriptive in nature for the State of Maine. Circumstances which may allow for a technology not listed within state code to be used can be found under Section 10.E, Experimental Systems.

In the State of Maine, management programs/contracts or management districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual septic dispersal systems are not recognized.

Onsite professionals are required to be certified in the State of Maine. Those onsite professionals include Site Evaluators, Installers, Inspectors, and Local Plumbing Inspectors. Installers and Inspectors have a voluntary certification renewable every 5 years. Site Evaluators have renewable license every 2 years, and Local Plumbing Inspectors have a mandatory certification renewable every 5 years.

The State requires soil characterization as part of the site evaluation. A licensed Site Evaluator evaluates site conditions and matches soil conditions to a hydraulic loading rate set by Rule. System design is prepared in accordance with Rule requirements. In the state of Maine a Licensed Site Evaluator - a private consultant hired by a property owner or agent - is responsible for conducting site evaluations before an onsite system is installed. If an inspection is requested by the homeowner, a Voluntary Certified

Inspector - a private consultant - will be hired to complete the inspection, usually with a fee in \$250-\$350 range.

In Maine conventional, advanced treatment, and experimental technologies are approved for use for onsite wastewater treatment and dispersal. Other technologies may be allowed in accordance with Section 10.E, Experimental Systems.

Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules do not require regular inspections for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems after initial construction. If an inspection is requested by the homeowner, it is performed by a private consultant with a cost in the range of \$250–\$350. Site evaluations are conducted by licensed Site Evaluators, licensed by the State through qualifications and examination. A test pit and soil characterization is required as part of the site evaluation.

A permit for the construction, upgrade, or modification of an onsite system is issued by the municipalities. The State of Maine keeps track of all permits issued. The decision is made by a local plumbing inspector as to whether a permit is needed for the repair of an existing system. Different permits are not required for alternative, experimental, and/or innovative technologies. Permits are issued by a municipal employee (Local Plumbing Inspector) at the local level. This person is certified at the State level. Third party certification (i.e. Canadian Standards Association, CSA) are considered. For information concerning permit statistics contact the Division of Environmental Health.

Funding is available to assist homeowners replacing failing systems but not for repair of a failing system or for new construction. Those interested in the program should contact:

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017
(207) 287-3190

Currently, there are no counties or communities within the state that have a revolving loan fund or any other financial assistance programs for individual homeowners.

Onsite training programs are coordinated by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee. Persons interested in these programs should contact Ms. Leann Hanson by calling (207) 253-8020 or email at jetcc@maine.rr.com. The Maine Rural Water Association (www.mainerwa.org) operates an onsite demonstration program at their facility in Richmond, Maine.