



MARYLAND

Mr. Don Hammerlund
Onsite Systems Division
Water Management Administration
Maryland Department of the
Environment
1800 Washington Blvd
Baltimore, **Maryland** 21230
(410) 537-3790
(410) 537-3163 (fax)
dhammerlund@mde.state.md.us

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/>

Sewage Disposal and Certain Water Systems for Homes and Other Establishments
in the Counties of Maryland Where a Public Sewage System Is Not Available
Title 26, Subtitle 04, Chapter 02
October 26, 1992

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/26_Chapters.htm#Subtitle04

Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in the Subdivision of Land in Maryland
Title 26, Subtitle 04, Chapter 03
October 26, 1992

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/26_Chapters.htm#Subtitle04

Design and Construction Manual for Sand Mound Systems
June 1991

The last revision to Maryland onsite regulations occurred June 1991 and October 1992. As of June 1, 2006, the current regulations were not under revision. Proposed revisions include establishing standards for septic tank construction; elimination of the use of seepage pits; and elimination of different soil loading rates for residential versus commercial wastewater systems. It is unknown at this time if these proposed revisions will be implemented.

The State of Maryland follows performance based codes for systems greater than 5,000 gpd for onsite sewage dispersal. For circumstances where a technology is not listed in code to be used, "any non-conventional treatment and/or disposal system" can be considered. However each proposal is evaluated from various standpoints, such as: 1) how complex is it; 2) does the approving authority have sufficient manpower to review plans, oversee construction, monitor performance; and 3) can the data acquired be applied to other sites within the State.

The State of Maryland recognizes the use of management programs/contracts to monitor and maintain those non-conventional systems which require specialized operation or extensive maintenance. Generally, the manufacturer or supplier of that treatment unit provides the “management”.

Periodic inspections are required by the state for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems but not statewide. For example, areas adjacent to shellfish harvesting waters would be required to be inspected. State Code does not require regular inspections to investigate the performance and operation of onsite systems after initial construction. If an inspection is requested by the homeowner, it is usually performed by someone in the private sector (certified consultant), with a cost. Site evaluations are conducted, in most cases, by the County Health Department. In several jurisdictions private consultants can perform the evaluation with health department oversight. Percolation test and soil characterization is required as part of site evaluation

Permits for onsite systems are issued at the local level for individual and small systems. Larger systems (>5,000gpd) are issued at the state level. The state does not record the number of permits issued for new construction, repair of existing systems or upgrade or modification. Different permits are not required for all alternative/experimental/innovative technologies.

It is not known at this time if monies from State Revolving Funds can be used in the State of Maryland to assist homeowners to repair or replace a failing or malfunctioning systems or for new construction.

For information about onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects, please contact: Mr. Rich Piluk, Ann Arundel County Health Department at (410) 222-7219. Onsite training programs are available throughout the State of Maryland, please contact:

Maryland Center for Environmental Training (MCET)
College of Southern Maryland
PO Box 910
La Plata, **Maryland** 20646-0910