



VIRGINIA

Mr. Donald Alexander, Director

Or

Mr. Allen Knapp, Program Manager
Division of Sewage & Water Services
Virginia Office of Environmental Health Services
1500 E. Main St., Rm. 115
Richmond, **Virginia** 23219
(804) 864-7452 or (804) 864-4029 (respectively)
(804) 225-4003 (fax)

Don.Alexander@vdh.virginia.gov

Allen.knapp@vdh.virginia.gov

<http://vdh.state.va.us/onsite/>

Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations

July 1, 2000

<http://vdh.state.va.us/onsite/regs.htm>

Onsite regulations for Virginia were last amended in July 2000. The entire set of regulations are being rewritten to: 1) simplify, 2) provide for managed decentralized community system designs, and 3) to provide maintenance for all systems.

Discharge Regulations (Single Family Home systems discharging to state waters) are performance based in the State of Virginia. For circumstances where a technology is not listed within your state code, the regulations recognize a “provisionally approved” status for systems where there is a modest body of data supporting use to solve specific receiving environment limitations. There are also “experimental” approvals which can allow unproven but scientifically justified systems to be used on a limited basis. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has also approved the use of seasonal proprietary systems under the experimental and provisional testing portions of the regulations. There are systems that provide advanced wastewater treatment (beyond septic effluent) and utilize soil dispersal methods or designs that are not contained in the regulations. Some of these systems utilize soil absorption areas that are smaller than those prescribed in the regulations. One system successfully completed the experimental testing procedure and has received general approval for statewide use.

Virginia Code does not require management programs/contracts or districts for surface water. The regulations do not recognize Operation and Management districts but they have pilot projects and pockets within the State. Operation and Management is in place as part of the project approval. There are no plans to develop a statewide management

program within the next year. For information pertaining to some of the pilot projects ongoing in the State of Virginia, please contact:

Mr. Jack Miniclere
Director of Public Works
Charles City County
(804) 652-4730

The State of Virginia does require onsite professionals to be certified. To do a site evaluation one must become an Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluator (AOSE). To do a design you must be a PE or in some single family home circumstances an AOSE can do the design. AOSE certification is renewable every two years and requires CEUs. PE's apparently are permanently trained (they're regulated by another agency and no continuing education is required). All site evaluations are conducted by local health departments or by private Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluator (AOSE) for a fee. Percolation and soil characteristics are required as part of a site evaluation. As far as inspections are concerned, the person that designed the system generally inspects it. VDH does not charge for inspections because we do not have the authority to do so. AOSEs or PEs generally charge for their inspections.

Permits are issued, and kept track of, by the state for new construction, repair of existing system, and for upgrade or modification to existing systems. These permits are issued at the Local Level. For more information on permits, please contact Mr. Duke Price (above). Different permits are required for alternative/experimental/innovative technologies. The regulations have requirements for provisional and experimental systems.

The State does provide funding or financing options for individual homeowners for repair or replacement of a failing or malfunctioning system, but not for new construction of an onsite wastewater treatment system. **Note:** The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, distributes funds to local agencies through the Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program and other housing-related programs that *may* be used to repair/replace inadequate or non-existent sewage systems.

For information regarding onsite training availability in the State of Virginia, please contact: Ms. Danna Revis 804 864-7461. For information about ongoing onsite wastewater demonstration, research, and testing projects contact:

Mr. Anish Jantrania, P.E., Technical Services Engineer
Virginia Department of Health
PO Box 2448, Room 115
Richmond, **Virginia** 23218-2448
(804) 225-1750
(804) 225-4003 (fax)
ajantrania@vdh.state.va.us