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## SEWAGE TANK RULE AND REGISTERED LIST

Our sewage tank rule, [Chapter 246-272C WAC](#), was effective in December, 2009. It provides a way for properly designed prefabricated sewage tanks to be included on the [List of Registered Sewage Tanks](#). These are the only prefabricated tanks allowed to be installed in Washington state for on-site sewage systems serving up to 100,000 gallons per day. The rule also sets requirements for on-site sewage system tanks that are cast in place.

The Wastewater Management Section reviews sewage tank designs submitted by professional engineers on behalf of tank manufacturers. We look at a tank's structural ability to withstand hydraulic, hydrostatic, earth, and possible traffic loads when full and empty. We also review design details such as inspection ports, inlets, and outlets to make sure they include all required items. The engineer must also include installation and cover details.

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We provided a phase-in period of January 2010 to July 2010, during which any tank designs we received were reviewed at no cost. We're also keeping the old [List of Approved On-site Sewage Tanks](#) active while we review designs to develop the Registered List. From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011, the local health jurisdiction and DOH may accept prefabricated tanks from either list in an on-site design.

The List of Approved On-Site Sewage Tanks was closed for the addition of new tank designs on December 31, 2009. Its sunset date is December 31, 2011. Starting on January 1, 2012, only prefabricated tanks that are included in the List of Registered Sewage Tanks may be used in on-site designs.

So how has the new list been developing? By the numbers:

Time Period	Applications Received	Applications Approved
January 1 to June 30, 2010	66	20
July 1 to December 31, 2010	42	63
January 1 to June 30, 2011	21	22

## OSWP Listservs

Get the latest updates via email by joining our office listservs. You must join each list individually, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

[Shellfish](#) – Notifications that impact commercial shellfish operations such as closures, rulemaking activity, vibrio illnesses, newsletters, etc.

[Wastewater](#) – General information such as updates on RS&Gs, proprietary product lists, TAG agendas, newsletters, and other general topics.

[Wastewater-LOSS](#) – LOSS issues and updates.

[Wastewater-Greywater](#) – Greywater issues and updates.

## MILESTONE REACHED WITH LOSS RULE ADOPTION

A major revision to the Large On-site Sewage System (LOSS) rule, Chapter 246-272B WAC, was adopted and became effective July 1, 2011. This was a complete rewrite of the rule that took extraordinary effort and collaboration between Department of Health and our stakeholders. Our LOSS Rule Advisory Committee and several subcommittees met with us more than 20 times to give input and guidance that helped us to draft the rule.

The rule text is available at the code reviser site, and we've created a printer friendly version. Links to both versions can be found on our web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/rules-oswp.htm#ww-rules](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/rules-oswp.htm#ww-rules).

### Rule Highlights

- All LOSS must have DOH operating permits – renewed annually.
- DOH must protect the environment in addition to public health – and will do this in part through the site risk survey, hydrogeology report, and effluent and groundwater monitoring tailored to the system.
- LOSS regulated by DOH now include domestic sewage treatment systems with subsurface treatment and disposal from 3500 gallons per day (gpd) to 100,000 gpd. DOH's previous range of authority was 3500 to 14,500 gpd.
- DOH may now approve mechanical treatment systems for LOSS.
- Public notice is required for new, expanding, and strength change LOSS > 14,500 gpd.
- Third parties may appeal DOH permits on LOSS > 14,500 gpd.
- DOH has compliance authority that includes civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation.
- Fees have moved to chapter 246-272 WAC, with other DOH wastewater and reclaimed water fees. This was a separate rule action, but impacts the content of the LOSS rule. Also, as part of the LOSS rule evaluation, we looked at fees for LOSS. We chose to eliminate the surcharge on design gpd for non-compliant LOSS.

### Next Steps for LOSS Program Staff

- Continue to look for and find existing LOSS, collect information for a basic evaluation, and issue them DOH operating permits. Priority areas include the 12 counties adjacent to Puget Sound.
- Write operating permits for LOSS that are transferring from Ecology's jurisdiction, and those from counties where permits are current.
- Incorporate the new process and requirements into review of new LOSS projects.
- Update and create guidance; post this information to our web site.
- Schedule two trainings on the rule in early 2012 (announcements will be sent through the wastewater and LOSS listservs).

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### Next Steps for LOSS Owners

- Read and learn what's expected of you in the revised rule.
- Make sure to apply for a LOSS operating permit, or renewal, as notified.
- Submit fees prior to receiving a permit or permit renewal, as directed.
- Read your permit carefully. There will be conditions that require you to take action by certain deadlines.

### Looking for existing LOSS in the Puget Sound counties

We've worked with local health jurisdictions, done internet searches, checked on school districts, talked to sewer agencies, and used other avenues to identify possible existing LOSS.

Once a possible LOSS is identified we send out questionnaires to collect system details. The questionnaires help us determine if the wastewater treatment system is a LOSS. We find that some are too small to qualify as LOSS, some are connected to public sewer, and some systems no longer exist. We've had a high response rate; 91% of the questionnaires sent out so far have been completed and returned.

## VIBRIO SEASON IS HERE

Warm weather is finally upon us and with it comes the 2011 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) illness season. In our environmental sampling program we have already encountered water temperatures as high as 74° F and oyster tissue temperatures as high as 79° F. So far this season we have been notified of a number of shellfish borne illnesses, some of which have been laboratory confirmed as Vp. Extended hot air temperatures are not necessary to heat the water, a few sunny days will provide radiational heating that is just as effective.

Of course, with the warmer weather comes our annual reminder to emphasize time to temperature control for commercial shellfish product. Keeping the shellstock in the water until the actual time of sale or filling an order is also beneficial. Quickly cooling the shellstock and maintaining it at a cool temperature will help avoid Vp-associated illnesses this summer.

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## RECREATIONAL SHELLFISH NEWS

### Facebook

The Recreational Shellfish Program is now on Facebook! The page will allow harvesters to use a familiar platform to get information on safe harvesting, and to receive shellfish information directly on their own Facebook news feed. You can find the page at [www.facebook.com/WAShellfishSafety](http://www.facebook.com/WAShellfishSafety) or search for Recreational Shellfish Program, Washington State Department of Health. While you're there check out the latest swimming advisory updates on the BEACH Program's facebook page [www.facebook.com/WABEACH](http://www.facebook.com/WABEACH). Don't forget to "Like" us!



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### Recreational Survey Conducted

Program staff went to nine popular public beaches during low tides in May and June to conduct a survey on recreational shellfish harvesting. We questioned over 80 harvesters to find out where they get their shellfish safety information. Every person that we asked to participate was willing to answer the six questions we posed. This effort will help us better target our outreach and education activities. A written report is being developed and should be completed by the end of the summer.

## UPDATE ON SAMISH BAY RECLASSIFICATION

As many of you know, we downgraded the classification of about 4,000 acres of shellfish beds in Samish Bay this spring from Approved to Conditionally Approved. We did this because the Samish River has been discharging extremely high loads of fecal contamination into the bay after heavy rains. Each of the temporary closures lasts for 5 days. So far in 2011, the bay has been closed 42 days due to pollution.

This reclassification has captured the attention of a lot of people, including Governor Gregoire, who directed state agencies to work with Skagit County and to take decisive action to clean up the river and the bay. Water quality in the Samish River appears to be primarily contaminated by farm animal waste that is washed into the river after rains.

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The Clean Samish Initiative, which is a partnership of agencies, shellfish growers, and other interested parties, is developing a cleanup plan detailing activities, responsibilities, and deadlines. The draft plan includes a number of activities, including monitoring, education, property inspections, and enforcement. One of the goals is for Skagit County, Ecology, the Department of Agriculture, and the EPA to coordinate their inspections so that every parcel in the watershed is evaluated within the next year.

**Staff Contacts**

For a complete list of staff and office addresses visit these websites:

Wastewater: [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ww/ww-staff.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ww/ww-staff.htm)

Shellfish: [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/shellfish-staff.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/shellfish-staff.htm)

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**Website**

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