



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

## **Evaluating the Effectiveness of Chapter 246-272A WAC**

Washington State Board of Health  
November 4, 2009

Maryanne Guichard, Director, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection

## Chapter 246-272A WAC

Protects public health by minimizing:

- The potential for exposure to sewage from on-site sewage systems
- Adverse effects of discharges from on-site sewage systems on ground and surface waters



## Chapter 246-272A WAC

Regulates on-site sewage systems (OSS):

- Location
- Design
- Installation
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Monitoring



## Chapter 246-272A WAC

Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) requirement:

- Local rules must be reviewed by DOH
- If no local rules, Chapter 246-272A WAC in effect

LHJ action (as of August 2009):

- Local rules adopted and approved – 22
- State rule adopted by reference – 2
- Defer to Chapter 246-272A WAC – 11



## Evaluation Required

WAC 246-272A-0425 requires DOH to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the rule every four years
- Determine if revisions are needed



## 2009 Evaluation Process

- DOH staff review
- Online survey created and sent to:
  - LHJs
  - Technical Advisory Committee (DOH)
  - On-site Wastewater Treatment System Advisory Committee (Department of Licensing)



## DOH Issues

- No review process for some emerging technologies
- Some language unclear
- Funding for LHJ management plans insufficient
- Need better messaging around importance of operation and maintenance (O&M)

## Survey Responses

- 100% of LHJs responded
- Majority believe the rule is effective



## Survey – Key Issues

- Rule requirements meet intent of the rule
- Rule effectively regulates the location, design, and installation of systems
- Some unclear language
- O&M – vague language presents challenges in implementation, differences in approaches



## Conclusions

- DOH does not recommend revising the rule at this time
- Chapter 246-272A WAC is effective in protecting public health and the waters of the state

## Next Steps

- Continue to provide technical assistance to LHJs in implementing the rule
- Assist at the national level in preparing standards for evaluating new technologies
- As resources allow, work on remediation technology rule
- Evaluate again in 4 years

# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND**

**HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**