



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

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Contact: Lonnie Peterson, State Board of Health, (360) 236-4108

Board of Health to Continue Hearing on Septic Rules

Wednesday, May 1, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Alderbrook Resort, 10 East Alderbrook Dr., Union

At its meeting Wednesday in Union, the State Board of Health will continue its hearing on changes to the rules governing small onsite sewage systems. After taking more than two hours of testimony in March, the Board carried over its discussion. During the 1:30 to 3 p.m. continuance, it will consider a recommendation that it republish the rule with changes, and is expected to provide direction about what those changes might look like. No additional public testimony will be taken. If it does republish the rule, it will probably hold another full hearing in July.

Proposed changes to the onsite rule, which the Department of Health is recommending to the Board, are intended to protect public health by updating design, installation, and operation requirements for onsite sewage systems. Criteria for registering various types of products and technologies would move from guidance documents into the rule itself. The rule would also require local health departments to write plans for promoting operation and maintenance of onsite systems.

The Board will also hear updates on rule revisions that could add cystic fibrosis to the list of newborn screening requirements and chickenpox immunization to the list of vaccines required for school entry.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at <http://www.sboh.wa.gov/>. The emergency and press contact number for the Board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The Governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov.