

On-Site Sewage System Management Plan Semiannual Report

Local Health Jurisdiction: Skagit County Health Department

LHJ Contact: Corinne Story, Env'l Public Health Manager

Reporting Period: July 1 – December 31, 2010

Estimated Expenditure for Reporting Period: _____

1. Summary of Work Completed by Task

Task #	Brief Task Description	Deliverables/Outcomes
1	Database Enhancement and Reporting.	728 records entered, consisting of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 579 inspections • 149 'pump only'
2	Notification of Inspection Requirement in MRA's and Enforcement of O/M inspections in MRA's.	<p>Lower Samish MRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 fines were issued on 7/7/2010. All property owners who were issued fines contacted the Skagit County Health Department. Interestingly, of these seven, three were failures. <p>Upper Samish MRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 fines were issued on 8/3/2010. All property owners who were issued fines contacted the Skagit County Health Department and have had their system inspected. <p>Thomas Creek SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 reminder letters were sent to property owners with 'unknown' OSS systems 10/25/10. • 139 reminder letters were sent to property owners who only had their systems pumped. • Letters and responses to the mailings are listed in Attachment A <p>Site visits were made to 16 property owners in the Samish watershed as part of an EPA grant to determine all sources of fecal bacteria from these properties. 8 of these property owners had an O/M inspection within the past 12 months. One failure was noted. Attachment B</p>
3	Bayview and Nookachamps MRA's	<p>Bayview MRA; residents with unknown on site sewage systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 (Second warning letter, 8/27/10) • 33 (Third Notice of Violation, 10/27/10) • 18 (Notice of Violation with \$75/day fine, 12/3/10) • 3 have ongoing fines. Skagit County code allows fines up to \$5,000. Property owners in this category are notified of their continuing fines on a regular basis. Once the fine reaches \$5,000 we refer the matter to collections if there is not an OSS failure. • Letters and responses to the mailings are found in Attachment C
4	Septics Education	There were four Septics 101 classes and one Septics 201 class held in this time period. Schedules for the classes are found as

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		<p>Attachments D and E. The Septics 101 class was funded under the EPA grant, and the 201 class was funded through these dollars. Advertising was done via the Skagit County web-site, Skagit Conservation Education Alliance web-site. In addition, notice of upcoming classes was placed in a Clean Samish initiative newsletter. There is no paid advertising budget available at this time, so we had to use as many other avenues as possible.</p> <p>Additionally, two separate Septics 101 classes were given to Beachwatchers' group and to the Skagit Stream Team members, who are water quality volunteers associated with the Skagit Conservation District. Attendance ranged from 1 person to 28. A snowstorm and illness made it difficult for some attendees to get to the classes. A total of 55 attended Septics 101 and there were 15 participants in the Septic 201 class.</p> <p>Septic 201 was structured differently than we have done in the past. Wade Bessett was able to work out an agreement with our local WSU Research Station where he set up a demonstration system. Pictures of the demonstration drainfield installation are attached. This reduces the cost of these classes by eliminating driving around from house to house.</p> <p>Lastly, we have not yet launched Septics 101 training on-line. Time available to make this happen has been scarce while administering another grant. We will focus on getting this completed within the next month.</p> <p>Class rosters and evaluations are attached as Attachment F.</p>
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2. OSS Inventory Tracking

Category	As of last date of this quarter
# of Known existing record for the property	<u>26,182 out of 36,455</u> Countywide Total* <u>438 out of 716 total</u> SA Total <u>3895 out of 3896</u> MRA Only Total

*The accuracy of this number is questionable. Our last report had 14,844 known systems out of an estimated 20,000 systems total. The numbers above reflect a query from our updated database. We suspect that the total number of systems is higher than the estimated 20,000 previously reported, but 36,000 systems seem high. Interestingly, though, the percentages with these two differing sets of numbers are close. 74% of systems are known if we use 14,844/20,000. 72% of systems are identified if we use the numbers above

Until there is an opportunity to dig deeper into the data to assure its accuracy, however, we are focusing on accurate data for the Marine Recovery Areas and Sensitive Areas.

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3. O&M Report Monitoring

Number of systems in an MRA inspected at least once in last 3 years as of the last date of this reporting period:

MRA's and SA's	No. inspected less than 3 yrs	Total
Bayview	230	547
Colony Creek	201	410
Guemes Island	238	716
Lower Samish	309	670
Nookachamps SA	71	426
Samish Island	253	413
Similk Beach	62	89
Thomas Creek SA	97	290
Upper Samish	316	751
Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach, Quiet Cove	192	303

Number of O&M reports received this reporting period: 728

Number of people who attended O&M training this reporting period: Septics 101 – 55; Septics 201 - 15

4. Enforcement

	Total Failures Found this reporting period	Failures Repaired this reporting period	Unresolved Failures this reporting period	Comments (Why are failures unresolved)
Countywide:	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	1 unjustified failure (landlord/tenant dispute. 1 applied for permit, waiting for weather to improve for installation. Remainder pending follow-up investigation.
MRA/SA Specific:	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	2 failures found in December. Repair permits applied for in January and are waiting for weather to improve.

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1. Percent of Systems in Database with Inspections Current:

	Gravity Systems this Reporting Period	Alternative Systems this Reporting Period
Countywide:	13%	28%
MRA's and SA's		
Bayview	33%	47%
Colony Creek	13%	24%
Guemes Island	4%	16%
Lower Samish	14%	25%
Nookachamps SA	12%	36%
Samish Island	26%	49%
Similk Beach	19%	44%
Thomas Creek SA	4%	21%
Upper Samish	17%	20%
Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach, Quiet Cove	11%	34%
Average MRA's and SA's	15%	32%

Barriers to Plan Implementation:

We saw a slow-down in the number of reports for this time period. As we have identified all the unknowns in the MRA's and SA's, we now need to assure all systems have had an inspection done in a timely manner. We've started this in the Thomas Creek SA by targeting property owners who have only had their OSS systems pumped, but not fully inspected. We have been working in Thomas Creek regarding livestock issues, and wanted to wrap the 'pump onlys' into this outreach effort.

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There has been a request for us to focus on parcels with OSS systems along the Samish River and its tributaries. We are working on this project with our GIS department, and will be focusing on assuring that OSS systems in more critical areas are up-to-date on inspections and in good working order.

We have freed up some Clean Water Program money to hire a computer programmer to develop an in-field reporting system similar to e-onsite. The goal is for this to come on-line by June 30, 2011.

Challenges or Comments about Issues this Quarter: Staff time continues to be a challenge. As noted above, the database refining continues to return higher numbers of assumed OSS systems than we originally estimated. We've found a couple of bugs where inspections have been counted multiple times. There is limited time available to do the analysis, data scrubbing and truth checking. We, therefore, are focusing on scrubbing data in the MRA's and SA's.

More importantly, we have not had adequate time to bring the Septics 101 training on-line in Skagit County. We want to tie this in with the Granicus system here even while using the Island County training DVD so that we will be able to measure the metrics associated with Skagit County citizens using this education tool.

List of Attachments included with email:

Attachment A – Thomas Creek letter and responses

Attachment B – Ecology and Skagit County Health site visit outcomes

Attachment C – Bayview letters and responses

Attachment D – Septics 101 announcement and agenda

Attachment E – Septics 201 announcement and agenda

Attachment F – Septic 101 and 201 class rosters and evaluations

Map 1 – Bayview MRA Status 11/1/10

Map 2 – Colony Creek MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 3 – Guemes Island MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 4 – Lower Samish MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 5 – Samish Island MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 6 – Similk Beach MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 7 – Upper Samish MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 8 – Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach & Quiet Cove MRA Status 1/4/11

Map 9 – Thomas Creek SA Status 11/1/10

Map 10 – Nookachamps Creek SA Status PENDING. We have just started work in this Sensitive Area. It has a large number of parcels and the data needs extensive review.

Instructions

Reporting Period: Quarterly Reports are due on the 15th day of the month after the quarter ends¹. DOH staff understands that the estimated expenditure for the reporting period is a rough estimate and will not match the invoice.

Table 1: Summary of Work Completed by Task

Please summarize what work has been done, if any, towards meeting the deliverables/outcomes for each task in your statement of work.

Table 2: OSS Inventory Tracking

¹ Report Due Dates: July 15, 2010; January 14, 2011; and June 15, 2011

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If your database is not able to differentiate between MRA and non-MRA or Sensitive Area OSS systems, please add an explanation to the Challenges or Comments section.

Table 3: O&M Report Monitoring

In this section, please report **only** on systems within an MRA. Report all systems in the MRA inspected in the last three years, even if they are out of compliance with the 1 year inspection requirement.

Table 4: Enforcement

In this table, please list ALL failures found, including those found during O&M inspection. The number of Unresolved Failures should reflect ALL known unresolved failures.

Table 5: Percent of Systems in Database with Inspections Current:

RCW 70.118A requires that counties show progressive improvement in the percentage of systems that have had required inspections.

Definitions

Failure: A condition of an on-site sewage system or component that threatens the public health by inadequately treating sewage or by creating a potential for direct or indirect contact between sewage and the public. Examples of failure include: (a) Sewage on the surface of the ground; (b) Sewage backing up into a structure caused by slow soil absorption of septic tank effluent; (c) Sewage leaking from a sewage tank or collection system; (d) Cesspools or seepage pits where evidence of ground water or surface water quality degradation exists; (e) Inadequately treated effluent contaminating ground water or surface water; or (f) Noncompliance with standards stipulated on the permit.

Maintenance: The actions necessary to keep the on-site sewage system components functioning as designed.

Monitoring : Periodic or continuous checking of an on-site sewage system, which is performed by observations and measurements, to determine if the system is functioning as intended and if system maintenance is needed. Monitoring also includes maintaining accurate records that document monitoring activities.