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Who does what around here?

Not sure who to call? The [sidebar on page 6](#) lists contacts by program category, or visit our web site for a complete list of [wastewater staff](#). If you're still unsure, call (360) 236-3062. Our administrative staff will direct you to the person that can best answer your questions.

Welcome to the first issue of *As It Flows*, designed to share information about wastewater and on-site sewage issues, reclaimed water, and regulatory changes.

We have new staff!

As our program responsibilities have grown, so have our ranks:

Local Health Support

Lynn Schneider assists locals with management plans, marine recovery areas, on-site sewage (OSS) technical issues, and OSS funding issues.

Leslie Turner assists locals with rules, OSS waivers, and proprietary product registration, provides technical assistance, and coordinates training for local health staff.

Large On-site Sewage Systems (LOSS)

Denise Lahmann supervises LOSS and Reclaimed Water staff in Tumwater and Spokane, and provides engineering review.

Linda Pang is our LOSS engineer who provides review for western Washington LOSS projects.

Jeanne Andreasson is our LOSS engineer working on State Parks projects ([see page 3](#)).

Lavina Long provides administrative support for staff in our Spokane office.

Nancy Darling performs LOSS pre-site inspections, and soil and nitrate evaluations across the state.

Melissa McEachron is our policy analyst leading the rule development efforts for our [LOSS rule revision](#) and the new [Sewage Tanks rule](#).

To subscribe to this newsletter, send request to WWNews@doh.wa.gov

Local management plans for Puget Sound counties

In June 2006, Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law [Third Substitute House Bill 1458](#), On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems -- Marine Areas. This legislation builds on WAC 246-272A, which requires the 12 Puget Sound counties to develop on-site sewage management plans by detailing stricter requirements for marine recovery areas (MRAs). It also provides financial assistance for plan implementation to be passed through Department of Health (DOH).

Each of the 12 counties completed a local management plan that was adopted by their board of health and approved as complete by DOH. The counties are now working on implementing their plans. We have created a web page that gives links to all 12 plans at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WW/lom, as well as links to guidance documents and maps of the designated MRAs. We are using this site to communicate and share resources that will help not only the 12 Puget Sound counties, but also other counties who are working on a management plan to protect their water quality. If you have questions or comments about local management plans, please contact [Lynn Schneider](#).

Dave Lenning to retire...

[Dave Lenning](#), manager of our Wastewater Management Section, is retiring from state service in February 2009. We will miss Dave, his leadership, and his expertise, but congratulate him on reaching this milestone.



...new WWMS manager selected

[Stuart Glasoe](#) has been selected as the new WWMS manager. Many of you know Stuart from his years with the Department of Ecology, the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, and more recently with our office's Shellfish Program. Stuart started January 2 in his new role, and Dave has agreed to stay through the month of January to help with the transition.

Send comments or suggestions to the editor: jan.jacobs@doh.wa.gov

State Parks LOSS projects

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) operates approximately 130 parks located throughout the state. Each park has its own site-specific wastewater treatment methods, from using small on-site systems to connecting to existing wastewater treatment plants.

As part of the governor's Clean Water Initiative, the legislature appropriated \$22.2 million to State Parks in 2006 for improvements to storm water and wastewater treatment systems in parks along Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Twenty-four parks have been slated for a variety of upgrades. The most ambitious of these involve replacing existing outdated systems with advanced wastewater treatment and new drainfields. Five state parks are currently scheduled to install membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology which is capable of producing reclaimed water quality effluent.

State Parks contracted with our office to hire an engineer through June 2009 to provide technical assistance and expedited review of their LOSS and reclaimed water systems. Under this agreement, the following Puget Sound parks have received our assistance: Fort Ebey, Cama Beach, Camano Island, Belfair, Blake Island, Kitsap Memorial Park, Ike Kinswa, Penrose Point, Illahee, and Fay Bainbridge. Contact our project engineer, [Jeanne Andreasson](#), if you have questions about State Parks projects.



LHJ field assessment of proprietary products

Chapter 246-272A WAC requires local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to submit field assessments each year on proprietary products before registrations are renewed. To meet this requirement, LHJs gather comments on proprietary products from operation and maintenance (O&M) providers each year and report concerns. This year very few concerns were reported. Most of the problems that were reported did not have specific enough information to take to manufacturers for action. This suggests that O&M providers need both encouragement and guidance on reporting concerns about proprietary products to LHJs.

State Parks has more information about these projects on their web site, [Puget Sound-Hood Canal cleanup projects](#)

For more information on proprietary product field assessments, contact [Leslie Turner](#)

Draft Sewage Tanks Rule

We recently completed the draft On-site Sewage Tanks rule (WAC 246-272C). This is a new rule that will join the on-site and large on-site sewage system rules and replace existing guidance documents.

A Sewage Tanks Rule Advisory Panel that included local health and manufacturing representatives met several times in the past few months to discuss rule language. They reviewed the guidance documents and discussed issues, made suggestions on sewage tank design and standards, and put forth recommendations that were incorporated into the draft rule language.

Our staff and the advisory panel are currently reviewing the draft rule. We are planning to hold informational workshops across the state in the first quarter of 2009. We hope to complete the draft rule, consider public comments, and ask the State Board of Health to adopt the On-site Sewage Tanks rule by the end of 2009. We expect the new sewage tank standards required in the rule will be phased in over a one-year period to allow existing tank inventory to be used, and for approvals to be issued under the new rule.

Information on the rule process including committee meetings, advisory panel members, and related documents are available online at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WW/tanks/tanks-rap.htm. If you have questions about the Sewage Tanks rule please contact [Melissa McEachron](#).

Spokane office is moving!

The lease on our Spokane office space is about to expire, and Spokane staff will soon be moving to a new location. Lease negotiations for the new site are currently underway. The move is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2009, and we anticipate Spokane staff will be unavailable for one day while the office is being moved from the old site to the new.

Along with a changed physical and mailing address, Spokane staff will have new phone numbers. However, the old numbers will not be disconnected for six months, and when called will automatically forward to the new. This will help ease the transition and assure Spokane staff remain readily accessible. New phone numbers will be posted to our web site at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ww/wwmp-staff.pdf as soon as they become available.



A tank is filled with water. If there's no measurable water loss within one hour, it's considered water-tight.



A tank is sealed and placed under negative air pressure. It's considered water-tight if no pressure loss is recorded within 5 minutes.

Water-tightness of sewage tanks is one of the major issues of the rule. The panel recommends water or vacuum testing after installation.

A listserv has been established to broadcast updates on tank rule revision activities. To subscribe, go to <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?AO=WASTEWATER-TANKS>

For additional information about LOSS rule activities, including agendas and notes from committee meetings, visit our web site at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ww/loss/loss-rcd.htm.

A listserv has been established to broadcast updates on LOSS rule revision activities. To subscribe, go to <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WASTEWATER-LOSS>

LOSS rule revision

DOH, with the help of an advisory committee and several subcommittees, is revising its Large On-site Sewage System Rule, WAC 246-272B.

The 2007 legislature gave DOH the authority to review and approve large on-site sewage systems (LOSS) up to 100,000 gallons per day (GPD), and those with mechanical treatment, such as membrane bioreactors (MBR). These activities were previously performed by the Department of Ecology. Ecology will continue to do this work until our new LOSS rule is adopted.

This new authority requires us to develop and adopt rules for LOSS. To help us in this effort, we formed a LOSS Rule Advisory Committee, consisting of volunteer professionals, local and state agencies, industry members, and interested parties. The committee has met since January 2008 to help us define what needs to be in the revised rule. Ecology's input is especially important as we figure out the environmental protection aspect, and deal with much larger LOSS than we have in the past. The rule will no longer be under the State Board of Health, due to the broadening of authority into the environmental area.

We expect to meet for a few more months, and then work on draft rule language. There will be public workshops before the DOH adopts a revised rule. The new rule will probably be effective in late 2009.

If you have questions about the LOSS rule visit our web site, join the listserv (both mentioned in the sidebar), or contact [Melissa McEachron](#).

Proprietary product registration renewal

Companies with registered on-site sewage proprietary products need to renew their registrations December 31st of each year. We are sending renewal reminders to companies to submit renewal applications so their products will remain on the list of registered on-site treatment and distribution products (Registered List). The [renewal forms](#) and [Verification Affidavit](#) are available on our web site. Look for a revised [Registered List](#) on our web site this month.

Reminder to Local Health Staff:

Check the [registered list](#) before permitting a proprietary product!

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Small flow UV wastewater disinfection training

DOH and WSEHA are sponsoring a 4 hour workshop on the use of UV disinfection in on-site sewage systems. The workshop will be held January 26, 2009 in the Town Center 1 Building training room (Room 163) at the [DOH Campus](#) in Tumwater, WA. Dr. Jim Cruver of Salcor Inc. will be the primary presenter during the workshop. He will provide information on the design principles of UV disinfection units and their installation for small wastewater flows. The monitoring, operation, and maintenance requirements for UV disinfection will be presented by Matt Lee of AquaTest. UV product testing and registration requirements will be covered by John Eliasson of our office. Attendance is limited to 50 people and advance registration is required. Registration for the workshop is through WAPHTN at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/waphtn/classlist.asp?id=1166>. CEUs will be provided to those who attend. Please contact [Laura Homan](#) for more information.

Upcoming conferences

- The [Washington Onsite Sewage Association's 13th annual conference](#) - "The Future of Onsite - The oldest 'Green Movement' in Washington" - is scheduled for January 22-24 this year in Vancouver, Washington.
- [Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association's 15th annual conference](#), highlighting wastewater industry issues and wastewater management, is being held January 15-17 in Corvallis, Oregon.



Revised guideline now available

The revised [Design Guideline for Gravity Systems in Soil Type 1](#) is now available on our web site. It has been updated to be consistent with the requirements in Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-Site Sewage Systems. Comments received on the draft document have been considered in the revision. If you have any questions about the guideline, please contact [Nancy Darling](#).