

On-Site Rule Revision Issue: Technical Advisory Group - WAC 246-272A-0400

Problem Statement

The current version of the rule is no longer specifically applicable based on legislation from 2010 (ESSHB 2617) eliminating committees. The precursor to what we know now as the TAG, was the TAC, and before that, the Technical Review Committee (TRC). These former committees were tasked with a slightly different role than the current TAG, in that the committees (TAC and TRC) carried more authority as they were empowered to make specific recommendations to the department. The TAG works more as an advisory group leaving the final decision to the department.

The department finds it important for the ongoing protection of public health and the environment to not only make the name change, but to spell out some specific responsibilities of each group, and the relationship between the TAG and the department.

Options

1. (Preferred) Update and revise the name, but also the language in section -0400 to better describe the role and function of the TAG. Existing section (2) is no longer commonly in use.
2. Make a name change to match the existing common use of the name TAG, and only delete section (2).

Pros/Cons

PROs for recommendation to use option #1	CONs for recommendation to use option #1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes advantage of the opportunity to improve the rule.• Removes outdated language from the rule.• More clearly outlines responsibilities and roles of the TAG and DOH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds more specific language that could bring concern for some with the appearance of added DOH involvement.• Added language decreases flexibility for those involved giving more specific direction.

RED = deleted existing language

BLUE = added new language

Recommendation to Consider

The Policy Subcommittee voted to make changes to the current WAC definition:

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Technical advisory ~~committee~~ group (TAG).

- (1) The department shall:
 - (a) Maintain a ~~technical advisory committee~~ TAG to advise the department regarding:
 - (i) OSS design and siting;
 - (ii) Public domain technologies and recommended standards and guidance for their use;
 - and
 - (iii) Testing and design standards used for proprietary product registration and recommended standards and guidance for use of proprietary products.
 - (b) Select members for the ~~technical advisory committee~~ TAG for three-year terms with technical or scientific knowledge applicable to OSS from agencies, professions, and organizations including **entities such as:**
 - (i) Local health departments;
 - (ii) Engineering firms;
 - (iii) The department of ecology;
 - (iv) Land sales, development and building industries;
 - (v) Public sewer utilities;
 - (vi) On-site sewage system design, installation **and maintenance** firms;
 - (vii) Environmental organizations;
 - (viii) University/college academic communities;
 - (ix) On-site sewage system or related product manufacturers; and
 - (x) Other interested organizations or groups.
 - (c) Convene meetings as needed.
 - ~~(2) The department may have a representative on the technical advisory committee~~
 - (d) Assign a departmental staff person from the wastewater management program to give oversight to the TAG and publish meeting notes.
 - (2) At the department's discretion this group may be merged with the PAG.

** [Review note, not intended for inclusion in the rule: DOH could develop a guidance manual that might include things like deciding when a meeting is needed, creating agendas, facilitation of the meeting, publishing notes from the PAG meeting (especially decisions), recruiting members, tracking lengths of member terms, finding locations and reserving space for the meetings, etc.]*