



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

William J. Sinclair
Acting Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

DATE

Name
Address
Address

Dear XX:

Subject: New Responsibilities of Owners of A Large Underground Wastewater Disposal System

Your name was given to us as the contact person for the _____, a large underground wastewater disposal system, which serves _____. If this is in error, please notify me by calling 801-538-9218, and forward this letter to the person it should be sent to. Otherwise, your name will remain on our list as the contact person.

Your wastewater disposal system is among approximately 130 other similar disposal systems in the state. In the past, this Division would review engineering plans and give construction approval. At completion, a final inspection was made and we left the servicing and operation in the hands of the owners and assumed that they would routinely make the necessary inspections. Unfortunately, we discovered that in most instances servicing and maintenance was not done until the system was in a state of failure. We also learned that even routine pumping was ignored. Several systems had early failures, where simple maintenance could have avoided more costly repairs.

These reasons, that may impact the environment and public health, motivated the legislature to pass a house bill in 2008 and amend the powers and duties of the Water Quality Board to include authority to issue Operating Permits for these wastewater disposal systems. Our rules were revised and adopted in April 2009 detailing these Operating Permits. In these new rules of Operating Permits, the following items will impact your wastewater system requirements:

1. **APPLICATION:** The owner of every large underground wastewater disposal system (such as yours) must supply to this Division the following information no later than **January 1, 2010**.
 - a. Facility name and address; owner name, address, and phone number.
 - b. List of Facility components, e.g. septic tank(s), pump tank, drainfield trenches, with lengths and number (if known).
 - c. Design flow (gallons per day) with number and type of connections. (residences, businesses, etc.).

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- d. Type of waste treated and disposed, i.e., residential, restaurant, other commercial establishments, etc.,
 - e. Sketch plan of existing system showing major facility components.
2. OPERATING PERMIT ISSUED: With the information provided in #1, an Operating Permit will be issued. There is no fee attached to this new permit.
 3. INSPECTIONS REQUIRED: Every system will have basic components inspected at a certain frequency, depending on the type, complexity and size of the disposal system. A person certified to conduct these inspections will have to be hired by the owner of the large system. Because yours is a simple gravity type system, only the septic tanks will need to be inspected ___ per year and pumped if necessary. The drainfield will need to be inspected to make sure sewage isn't surfacing or in a state of failure. Enclosed in this letter is a list of individuals, who are certified to conduct these inspections, they can even assist you in completing task # 1 above, if you desire

Note- because of the depth of cover over the septic tanks, it would be prudent to install watertight risers with gasketed screwed down lids over this opening to avoid having to dig up the tank every year. For these details of riser type, size, height, etc., call this office.

4. ANNUAL REPORT: You will be required to submit an annual report covering the period of July 1 to June 30, no later than August 1 of each year, with details of the inspection and the dates from item #4 above. No fee is required to be submitted with this report.

We realize that time can easily slip by, that is why we suggest that you submit an Application to us as soon as possible to avoid missing the deadline. If, no application is submitted by the deadline, enforcement action and possible penalties may be imposed.

If you have any questions regarding these new requirements, please contact me by calling 801-538-9218.

Sincerely,

David G. Snyder
Environmental Scientist
Engineering Section

Enc.: List of Maintenance Specialist

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