

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GWINNETT COUNTY
LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA

RESOLUTION ENTITLED: **An Ordinance to amend Appendix A to the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County entitled "On-Site Sewage Management Systems."**

At the regular meeting of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners held in the Commission Meeting Room, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

	Present	Vote
F. Wayne Hill, Chairman	Yes	Aye
Thomas P. Hughes, District 1	Yes	Aye
Patti Muise, District 2	Yes	Aye
Judy Waters, District 3	Yes	Aye
Kevin Kenerly, District 4	Yes	Aye

On motion of Kevin Kenerly, which carried 5-0, the following Resolution was adopted:

An Ordinance to amend Appendix A to the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County entitled "On-Site Sewage Management Systems."

BE IT RESOLVED this 7th day of July, 1998.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: F. Wayne Hill
F. Wayne Hill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Brenda Maddox
Deputy Clerk

Approved: [Signature]
Senior Assistant County Attorney

A RESOLUTION OF THE GWINNETT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Gwinnett County has in effect an ordinance entitled "On-Site Sewage Management Systems" which is Appendix A of the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County; and

WHEREAS, the said ordinance enacts as an ordinance of Gwinnett County a regulation of the Gwinnett County Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of the Board of Health adopts a regulation of the Department of Human Resources of the State of Georgia as a regulation of the Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the amendment of its regulations by the Department of Human Resources the Board of Health has in turn amended its regulations; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to bring the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County into conformance with the regulations of the Board of Health and of the Department of Human Resources so as to provide consistency and simplify enforcement of measures related to the public health;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED this 7th day of July, that pursuant to Section 1-3 of the Code of Gwinnett County, Georgia, the Code is hereby amended by deleting Appendix A entitled "On-Site Sewage Management Systems" in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof an amended Appendix A attached hereto.

This Resolution is adopted this the 7th day of July, 1998.

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: F. Wayne Hill
F. Wayne Hill, Chairman
Gwinnett County Board
of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Maddox
Brenda Maddox County Clerk (SEAL)
Deputy

Approved as to form:
Robert L. Hunt
Senior Assistant County Attorney

**REGULATIONS
OF
Gwinnett County Board
of Health
On-site Sewage Management Systems**

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.01 Applicability - These Rules will have application except in the following cases:

- (a) any facility or system under the jurisdiction of and regulated by the Department of Natural Resources or its successor;
- (b) any public or community sewage treatment system;
- (c) other shared jurisdiction by Memoranda of Agreement or other agreements.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-7-7.

.02 Definitions - For the purpose of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning as indicated beside each listing:

- (a) "Additive" means an approved commercial product added to an on-site sewage system to enhance the performance of the system.
- (b) "Absorption Field" means a configuration of absorption trenches installed in a portion of land and used for the absorption and final treatment of sewage.
- (c) "Absorption Line" means a pipe line of perforated pipe laid in an absorption trench to serve as a conduit for sewage effluent.
- (d) "Absorption Trench" means an excavation in which an absorption line is laid.
- (e) "Absorption Trench Bottom and Side Soil Area" means the total interface of bottom and side soil area with undisturbed soils of all absorption trenches in an absorption field and occurring horizontally and downward from the point of distribution into the soil, expressed in square feet.
- (f) "Aggregate" means washed gravel or washed stone meeting the Georgia Department of Transportation standards for hardness or other materials approved by the Department and shall be one half inch (1/2") to two inches (2") in diameter.
- (g) "Alternative On-site Management System" means any approved on-site sewage

- management system which differs in design or operation from the conventional or chamber septic tank system or privy.
- (h) "Approved" or "Approval" means compliance with applicable specifications or criteria developed or accepted by the Department.
 - (i) "Auxiliary System" means a system to serve a portion of a residence, a pool house or other adjunct facility.
 - (j) "Bedroom" means any room that could be expected to be used for sleeping purposes, is furnished with a closet and accessible to a bathroom without going through another room.
 - (k) "Black Water" means wastewater generated by water closets, urinals, bidets, kitchen sinks and garbage disposals.
 - (l) "Building Drain" means that part of the lowest piping of a building drainage system inside the walls of a building, which receives the discharge from soil, waste or other drainage systems and conveys the discharge to the building sewer.
 - (m) "Building Sewer" means that part of the horizontal piping of a building drainage system beyond the building drain which receives the discharge from the building drain and conveys it to a public sewer, private sewer, on-site sewage management system, or other disposal.
 - (n) "Central On-site Sewage Management System" means an on-site sewage management system serving more than one building, business, residence or other facility designed or used for human occupancy or congregation.
 - (o) "Chamber Septic Tank System" means a septic tank and a chamber system as defined in (p).
 - (p) "Chamber System" means a system of chambers with each chamber being a molded polyolefin plastic, arch shaped, hollow structure with an exposed bottom area and solid top and louvered sidewall for infiltration of effluent into adjoining bottom and sidewall soil areas. Chambers may be of different sizes and configurations to obtain desired surface areas.
 - (q) "Community Subsurface Treatment System" means any system which treats primarily domestic wastewater other than those serving single family residences or non-domestic sewage systems.
 - (r) "Contractor" means any person who shall contract for the installation, construction, repair, alteration, enlargement, emptying or pumping out of any on-site sewage management system.
 - (s) "Conventional System" means a system traditionally used composed of perforated pipe surrounded by gravel or stone masking for the infiltration of effluent into adjoining bottom and side soil areas.
 - (t) "Conventional Septic Tank System" means any septic tank, and conventional system as defined in (s), but does not include alternative or experimental systems.
 - (u) "County Board of Health" means the County Board of Health established by the Georgia Health Code (O.C.G.A. 31-3-1) or its designee.
 - (v) "Department" means the Department of Human Resources of the State of Georgia or its designee.
 - (w) "Distribution Device" means a watertight structure which receives sewage effluent from a septic tank, dosing tank, or other sewage retention device and distributes it in equal portions to two or more absorption lines.
 - (x) "Dosing Tank" means an approved watertight tank, located after a septic tank or other sewage retention device, to receive and retain sewage effluent, and so equipped as to discharge sewage effluent intermittently to a distribution device, either by pump or by siphon.
 - (y) "Experimental On-site Sewage Management System" means any on-site sewage

- management system proposed for testing and observation, and provisionally approved for such purposes by the Department, but which has not been fully proven under field use.
- (z) "Failure" means a condition of an on-site sewage system that constitutes a public hazard by inadequate treatment and/or disposal of sewage.
 - (aa) "Filter" means an approved device that removes solids or other materials from the effluent that could cause failure of an on-site sewage management system.
 - (bb) "Flood Plain" means a generally flat plain or depression susceptible to being flooded from any source, including small and intermittent water courses and coastal areas subject to intermittent tidal action.
 - (cc) "Gray Water" means wastewater generated by water-using fixtures and appliances, excluding water closets, urinals, bidets, kitchen sinks, and garbage disposals.
 - (dd) "Grease Trap" means a device in which the grease content of sewage is intercepted and congealed, and from which grease may be skimmed or otherwise removed for proper disposal.
 - (ee) "Individual Water Supply System" means a system of piping, pumps, tanks, or other facilities, utilizing groundwater to supply a single family dwelling.
 - (ff) "Lot" means a portion of a subdivision, or any other parcel of land, intended as a unit for transfer of ownership, or for development, or both, and shall not include any part of the right-of-way of a street or road.
 - (gg) "Manual For On-site Sewage Management Systems" means the technical handbook currently adopted and periodically updated which is used by the Department in the implementation of this chapter and is available for inspection at the appropriate State Office in Atlanta or at local health departments. Such Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems and its provisions are herein adopted unless inconsistent with other provisions of law or regulation and is hereafter referred to as the "Manual" or "Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems."
 - (hh) "Mobile Home Park" means a parcel of land developed for subsequent rental or lease for placement of two (2) or more mobile homes.
 - (ii) "On-site Sewage Management System" means a sewage management system other than a public or community sewage treatment system serving one or more buildings, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, residences, or other facilities designed or used for human occupancy or congregation. Such term shall include, without limitation, conventional and chamber septic tank systems, privies, and experimental and alternative on-site management systems which are designed to be physically incapable of a surface discharge of effluent that may be approved by the department.
 - (jj) "Percolation Coefficient" means the ratio of trench bottom area to percolation time; it is expressed as the allowable rate of sewage application in gallons per square foot per day.
 - (kk) "Percolation Rate" means the time, expressed in minutes per inch, required for water to seep into saturated soil at a constant rate.
 - (ll) "Percolation Test" means the method used to measure the percolation rate of water into soil as described in the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
 - (mm) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, or association and may extend and be applied to bodies, political and corporate.
 - (nn) "Physical Development" means development which includes, but is not limited to site preparation, erection of a structure, road construction, well construction, or installation of on-site sewage management systems.
 - (oo) "Privy" means a structure (and necessary appurtenances) used for the sanitary disposal or storage of human wastes without the aid of water carriage; the term does not include chemical, composting, portable, or incinerator toilets.

- (pp) "Public Water Supply System" means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption, if such system has at least fifteen service connections, or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five individuals daily, at least sixty (60) days out of the year.
- (qq) "Repair" means, but not limited to, the addition to or the replacement of an existing on-site sewage management system because of system failure or construction on site which would require modification of the existing system.
- (rr) "Septage" means a waste that is a fluid mixture of partially treated or untreated sewage solids, liquids and sludge of human or domestic waste, present in or pumped from septic tanks, malfunctioning on-site sewage management systems, grease traps or privies.
- (ss) "Sewage Treatment System" is a system that provides primary treatment and disposal, including absorption field components, devices and appurtenances intended to be used for disposal of sewage by soil absorption, but does not include a conventional or chamber septic tank system. The system shall be designed to be physically incapable of a surface discharge of effluent.
- (tt) "Septic Tank" means an approved watertight tank designed or used to receive sewage from a building sewer and to affect separation and organic decomposition of sewage solids, and discharging sewage effluent to an absorption field or other management system.
- (uu) "Sewage" means and includes human excreta, all water carried wastes, and liquid household waste from residences; or commercial and industrial establishments.
- (vv) "Sinkhole" means a depression in the land surface, generally in a limestone region, which communicates or has the potential to communicate with a subterranean passage developed by solution; typical sinkholes can be broad, closed basin-like features or steep-sided dropouts, or variants thereof.
- (ww) "Site" means the location where the absorption field will be installed to include replacement area.
- (xx) "Soil Classifier" means a person who holds at least a Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Agronomy, Soil Science, or related field, as approved by Soil Classifiers Certification Board. Must have completed a minimum of 15 semester hours or 25 quarter hours in approved soil science courses including a course in pedology and have four years or more of full time experience as a Soil Classifier/Soil Scientist actively mapping, identifying and classifying soil features, and interpreting the influence of soil features on soil uses. Certification shall be in accordance with guidelines published in the Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (yy) "Subdivision" means any division of a tract or parcel of land into five or more lots, building sites, mobile home sites, or other divisions, resulting in any single lot of less than three acres, for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or legacy, and includes resubdivision and, where appropriate to the context, relates to the process of subdividing or to the land or area subdivided, provided; however, that the following are not included within this definition:
 - (a) The combination or recombination of previously platted lots or portions thereof where the total number of lots is not increased and the resultant lots conform to the standard of these rules.
 - (b) The division of land into parcels, all of which are three acres or more in size with minimum width of one hundred and fifty feet (150') for a distance sufficient to provide an adequate area for the placement of structures and improvements including wells and approved installation of approved on-site sewage management systems.
- (zz) "Well" means an excavation or opening into the ground by which groundwater is sought or

obtained.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.03 General Provisions

- (1.) "On-site Sewage Management System Required" - Where public or community sewage treatment systems are not available, the owner, lessee or agent thereof of every building, residence or property, designed, used or intended to be used for human occupancy or congregation, shall provide an approved on-site sewage management system sufficient for persons normally expected to use or frequent the building, residence or other property for two hours or more. Connection shall be made to a public or community sewage treatment system when such system is available within two hundred feet (200') of the property line, or available in a public right-of-way abutting the property. Where a public or community sewage treatment system is to be constructed, or an existing public or community sewer is to be extended to serve a lot, or an approved on-site sewage management system is to be used, the building sewer shall be installed so that it will insure gravity flow at a self-cleaning velocity throughout. If an existing on-site sewage system fails, immediate connection shall be made to a public or community sewerage system if such a system is available.
 - (a) Any facility that produces a waste stream with BOD₅ and TSS (total suspended solids) higher than 200 mg/L shall be required to pretreat the waste to reduce the BOD₅ and TSS to 200 mg/L or below before disposal through a conventional or chamber septic tank system.
- (2.) "On-site Sewage Management System Construction Permit Required" - No person may begin the physical development of a lot or structure thereon, where an on-site sewage management system will be utilized, nor install an on-site sewage management system or component thereof without having first applied for and obtained from the County Health Department a construction permit for the installation.
 - (a) Application for such construction permit shall be made in writing on forms provided by the County Board of Health. The County Board of Health shall approve or disapprove such application within twenty (20) days after the receipt of a completed application. The application shall include:
 - 1) Name and address of the owner and the applicant, if other than the owner;
 - 2) Location of property;
 - 3) Plans and specifications including location and design of the proposed on-site sewage management system including surface and subsurface drainage and piping;
 - 4) Nature of the facility to be served;
 - 5) Location of all water supplies, geothermal systems, or other utilities and trash pits on or off the lot, which will bear upon the location of the on-site sewage management system;
 - 6) Number of bedrooms in the dwelling, or the number of persons to be served in other types of establishments, or other sewage flow or water usage data;
 - 7) Soil characteristics, including soil types and capabilities, frequency and evaluations of seasonal high groundwater tables, occurrence of rock and other impervious strata;
 - 8) Signature of the owner or agent applying for permit; and
 - 9) Any additional information deemed necessary to determine the suitability of the site.
 - (b) The County Board of Health may waive submission of part of the information required for the application, however, provided the Board deems such information is available from previously submitted subdivision or mobile home park data, or

from other sources, and is sufficient to make an adequate appraisal of the acceptability of the proposed lot for the installation of an on-site sewage management system.

- (c) Repairs, replacement, or additions to existing systems must be permitted and inspected. The jetting and/or high pressure washing of an absorption line will not be considered as a repair.
 - (d) Any person preparing to modify a lot for the purpose of obtaining a construction permit for the installation of an on-site sewage management system shall submit plans showing the type and extent of modifications. No modifications shall be carried out prior to the approval of the plans by the County Board of Health. Such approval shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (3.) "Requirements for On-site Sewage Management System Construction Permit Issuance or Denial" - On-site sewage management system construction permits shall be issued only after a site inspection by the County Board of Health shows favorable findings relative to absorption rates, soil characteristics, groundwater, rock, and any other factors which would affect the acceptability of the lot. No construction permit for an on-site sewage management system shall be issued prior to the approval of the public water supply system, where a public water supply system is to be utilized. Lot suitability and approval is to be determined by the criteria established by the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. Lots shall be sized according to the regulations of the County Board of Health. The County Board of Health may deny or revoke an on-site sewage management system construction permit upon finding the lot unsuitable or for failure of the applicant to comply with the provisions of these rules. Such denial shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the O.C.G.A. 12-8-1, 31-5-2, 31-5-3, 31-5-4, 31-5-5 and 31-5-6. On-site sewage management construction permits shall remain valid for not more than twelve (12) months from the date of issue.
- (a) Issuance of a construction permit for an on-site sewage management system, and subsequent approval of the same by representatives of the County Board of Health shall not be construed as a guarantee that such systems will function satisfactorily for a given period of time; furthermore, said representatives do not, by any action taken in affecting compliance with these rules, assume any liability for damages which are caused, or which may be caused, by the malfunction of such system.
 - (b) On tracts or parcels of land of three acres or more, where the absorption rate exceeds 90 minutes per inch, the conventional or chamber septic tank system may be based on the percolation rate not to exceed 120 minutes per inch. All other conditions must comply with the requirements of the regulations for on-site sewage management systems.
- (4.) "Inspections" - No person may cover or use an on-site sewage management system until final inspection has been made by the County Board of Health to determine compliance with the provisions of the construction permit issued under Section .03 (3) and written approval has been issued by the County Board of Health.
- (a) A copy of the final inspection of an on-site sewage management system shall be provided to the owner, builder, developer or agent, whichever is appropriate.
 - (b) Grading, filling, digging trash pits or other landscaping or construction activities on the lot subsequent to final inspection by the County Board of Health which may adversely affect the on-site sewage management system shall render the approval void.

- (5.) "Design Limits for Conventional or Chamber Septic Tank Systems" - To provide for the maintenance of sanitary conditions through the proper functioning of a conventional or chamber septic tank system for a reasonable period of time, no such system may be installed, constructed, or used, having a septic tank design capacity of less than one thousand (1000) gallons or greater than ten thousand (10,000) gallons, or where the total length of absorption trenches required would exceed three thousand (3,000) linear feet, or where the total absorption trench bottom area required would exceed nine thousand (9,000) square feet.
- (6.) "Submission of Plans, Specifications, and Soil Data" - Plans, specifications, soil data and, if required, absorption test data, submitted to the County Board of Health for the purpose of obtaining a construction permit to install an on-site sewage management system, which will produce a sewage flow in excess of two thousand (2,000) gallons per day, shall bear the registration number and signature of a Registered Professional Engineer, certified and registered under the laws of this State. The County Board of Health may accept plans, specifications, soil data, and absorption test data for facilities with sewage flow of two thousand (2,000) gallons or less per day, when prepared in accordance with these rules, from any person who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the County Board of Health that they have sufficient knowledge of on-site sewage management system design.
- (7.) "Soil Data Acceptability for Individual Lots" - Effective twenty-four (24) months after the adoption of these rules, soil evaluations shall be conducted by individuals meeting the requirements established in the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. Soil data deemed to be acceptable by the County Board of Health shall include information on soil characteristics obtained from special investigations conducted by a registered Soil Classifier or equivalent as specified in the current Manual for On-site Sewage Management System.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-7.

- (8.) "License, Bond and Certification Required" - All contractors shall be required before installing, repairing, altering or pumping septic tanks in the county, to possess a valid business license as issued by the license department, a bond in the amount of \$5,000.00, and a valid certificate of qualifications. Contractors engaged in this type of business and qualified as a septic tank contractor shall be registered at the Health Department.
- (9.) "Repair or Alteration"
 - (1.) "Permit Required" - No person may begin the repair or alteration of an existing on-site sewage management system without having first applied for and obtained from the County Board of Health, a construction permit for the installation.
 - (a) Application for such construction permit shall be made in writing, on forms provided by the County Board of Health. The application shall include:
 - 1. Name and address of the owner and location of the property.
 - 2. Plans and specifications including location of existing system and design of proposed repair. Dependant upon the nature of the repair and factors such as age, water consumption, and position in landscape, an on-site soil classification report may be required to be submitted by a registered soil classifier.
 - 3. Signature of owner applying for permit.
 - (2.) Alteration for Swimming Pool Installation
 - (a) Application, site review, consultation, approval and/or denial of proposed alteration shall be between the owner and the County Board of Health.
 - (b) Disruption of an existing on-site sewage management system shall be minimal, and all disrupted line replaced.
 - (c) An area for replacement of 100% of the total field line shall be provided when all alteration for the swimming pool is completed.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-7

.04 Sewers

- (1) "Size of Sewers" - Sewers connecting component parts of on-site sewage management systems shall be of sufficient size to serve anticipated flow conditions.
- (2) "Sewers" - All solid pipe and fittings used in an on-site sewage management system, beginning at the house, shall be NSF International schedule 40 PVC or equivalent and shall be a minimum of four inches in diameter. Sewers under driveways or similar areas of load or impact shall be NSF International schedule 40 PVC and installed so as to provide protection from crushing.
- (3) "Construction" - Sewers, other than perforated pipe or drain tiles used in absorption fields, shall be laid with sealed, watertight, root-resistant joints. Such sewers shall be laid on a firm foundation, and shall not be subject to settling, and shall be installed on a grade that will insure a self-cleaning velocity. Where on-site sewage management systems are used, and where installation of building drains and building sewers is not covered by duly adopted local plumbing codes, or in the absence of a local plumbing code and/or plumbing inspections, the County Board of Health may verify the adequacy and acceptability of all or any portion of the building sewer or the building drain.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.05 Septic Tanks

- (1) "Minimum Design and Construction" - Septic tanks shall provide a minimum of 24 hours of detention and shall be designed and constructed to equal or exceed minimum design and construction criteria established by the Department as published in the current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. After the effective date of these regulations, any person seeking approval of septic tanks to be used in on-site sewage management systems, shall submit detailed plans and specifications for tank manufacture and other information as may be required by the Department. Manufacturers and suppliers may be subject to periodic inspection, and approval by the County Board of Health or the Department. Six months after the date of the adoption of these regulations, both the inlet and outlet tees shall be NSF International schedule 40 PVC or equivalent. In addition, an approved filter shall be installed on the outlet end of the septic tank in compliance with the Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (2) "Location" - No septic tank shall be installed less than fifty feet (50') from existing or proposed wells/springs, sink holes, or suction water lines, and tanks shall be located downgrade from wells/or springs if physically possible; less than twenty-five feet (25') from lakes, ponds, streams, water courses, other impoundments; less than ten feet (10') from pressure water supply lines, or less than ten feet (10') from a property line. No septic tank shall be installed less than fifteen feet (15') from a drainage ditch or embankment. Septic tanks shall be installed so as to provide ready access for necessary maintenance. Normally, the distance a septic tank should be located from a building foundation is at least ten feet (10') but, lesser distances may be allowed by the County Board of Health. The County Board of Health, after site inspection, may require greater separation distances than cited herein due to unusual conditions of topography, or other site configuration; subsurface soil characteristics and/or groundwater interference. Where individual water supplies are used, septic tanks shall not be less than twenty-five feet (25') from a property line.
- (3) "Capacity" - Twelve months after the date of the adoption of the regulations for on-site sewage management systems, the liquid capacity of septic tanks for single family dwellings shall be one thousand (1000) gallons for one, two, three, or four bedrooms, and

250 additional gallons for each bedroom over four. Septic tank capacity shall be increased by (50%) where garbage grinders are to be used. Auxiliary systems serving single family residences or other facilities shall be based on the maximum daily flow.

- (4) "Compartmented Tanks" - Twelve months after the adoption of these regulations for on-site sewage management systems, two-compartment tanks shall be required. The first compartment shall be at least two-thirds (2/3) of the liquid capacity of the tank.
- (5) "Tanks in Series" - The County Board of Health may approve the installation of two septic tanks placed in series provided that the capacity of the first tank is at least one thousand (1000) gallons and at least equal to the capacity of the second tank. When tanks in series are used, they shall be connected with a sealed sewer line, and all sewage shall initially enter the first tank.
- (6) "Foundation and Backfill" - Septic tanks will be constructed or installed level, on a foundation that will prevent settling; backfill shall be placed so that a stable fill results and undue strain on the tank is avoided. Earth backfill shall be free of voids, large stones, stumps, broken masonry, or other such materials. A minimum earth cover of six inches (6") over the tank is required. With proper documentation the County Board of Health may approve less cover. All openings and manholes shall be constructed so as to prevent the entrance of surface water.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4

.06 Distribution Devices and Dosing Tanks

- (1) "Minimum Design and Construction of Distribution Devices" - Distribution devices shall be designed and constructed in accordance with minimum design and construction criteria established in the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (2) "Minimum Design and Construction of Dosing Tanks" - Where required, dosing tanks shall be designed, constructed, and installed in accordance with the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (3) "Overflow" - Any residential system utilizing a dosing tank shall have an audio/visual alarm and an overflow line to be 10% of the total linear footage of the absorption field.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.07 Absorption Fields

- (1) "Absorption Area" - the absorption area shall be based upon the anticipated volume of treated sewage and upon the characteristics of the soil in which absorption fields are to be located as specified in the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. Soil characteristics and other related data, including percolation tests, may be required by the County Board of Health. Absorption areas shall be classified as follows: Aggregate, non-aggregate and other.
- (2) "Prior Approved Systems" - Any "prior approved system" as defined in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 31-2-7 (a)(4) is approved for installation according to manufacturers' recommendation.
- (3) "Location" - No absorption field will be constructed less than one hundred feet (100') from existing or proposed wells, springs or sinkholes; less than ten feet (10') from water supply lines and buildings with basements and less than five feet (5') from buildings without basements, other structures, drives and property lines; less than fifteen feet (15') from an embankment or trash pit, nor less than fifty feet (50') from the normal water level of any impoundment, tributary, stream, or other body of water, including wetlands. If the water supply line crosses or comes within ten feet (10') of the absorption field the water supply

line shall be installed at least twelve inches (12") above the top of the aggregate layer of the absorption line and shall be encased in a single length of larger diameter water pipe. No absorption field shall be installed in areas where groundwater, soil characteristics or adverse geological formation may interfere with the absorption or effective treatment of sewage effluent.

- (4.) "Minimum Design and Construction for Absorption Fields" - Absorption lines and absorption trench bottoms shall be true to grade and trenches shall be not less than twenty-five inches (25") in depth, and shall have not less than twelve inches (12") earth cover. Maximum length of absorption trench laterals for distribution device systems shall be one hundred twenty-five feet; laterals shall be equal in length and spaced not less than eight feet (8') apart, center to center. Absorption trenches shall be thirty-six inches (36") wide. The minimum length for any on-site sewage management system absorption field shall be two-hundred feet (200'). Upon installation, new standard systems for residential premises shall provide, three hundred (300) square feet of absorption line per bedroom, consisting of one hundred (100) linear feet in length and thirty-six (36") inches in width.
- (5.) "Step Downs" - When a step down is required due to change in topography and/or soil conditions, the step down shall be constructed with NSF International schedule 40 PVC, 3" in diameter pipe. The 3" PVC pipe shall extend a minimum of 12 inches into both the upper absorption line (the beginning of the overflow) and the lower absorption line (the termination of the overflow).

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections: 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

- .08 Privies- "Minimum Design and Construction" - Privies shall be designed and constructed in accordance with minimum design and construction criteria established by the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management System.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1,31-2-1,31-2-2,31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.09 Alternative On-site Sewage Management Systems

- (1.) "Alternative On-site Sewage Management System" means any approved on-site sewage management system which differs in design or operation from the conventional or chamber septic tank or privy.
- (2.) "Design and Construction" - Alternative on-site sewage management systems shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the minimum design and construction criteria established by the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. The Department shall maintain a list of approved alternative on-site sewage management systems.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections: 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.10 Experimental On-site Sewage Management Systems

- (1.) "Experimental On-site Sewage Management Systems" means any on-site sewage management system proposed for testing and observation, and provisionally accepted for such purposes by the Department's technical review committee. Any limitations to the use of experimental systems shall be decided by the Department's technical review committee.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections: 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.11 Septage Removal and Disposal

- (1.) "Permit Required" - No person shall engage in the removal or disposal of the contents of septic tanks, pit privies, or other on-site sewage management or experimental systems without having first applied for and obtained from the Department or County Board of Health a septage removal permit, renewed

annually, for such activities. The application for such septage removal permit shall be submitted in writing on forms provided by the County Board of Health at least ten (10) days prior to engaging in such activities. The application shall include but not be limited to: the business name and address, name and address of the applicant, the manner by which such contents are to be removed, transported and given final disposal and such other documentation as may be required by the County Board of Health, including evidence that septage removed and transported will be accepted at approved disposal sites.

- (a) Suspension and Revocation - The permit shall be subject to suspension and revocation for failure to comply with the requirements of these regulations or the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (2.) "Pumping and Disposal Methods" - Approved methods of pumping and disposal of septage from on-site sewage management systems shall be: discharge to a public or community sewage treatment system for treatment in a wastewater treatment plant, treatment at separate septage handling facilities, or direct land application. Pumping and disposal shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (3.) "Vehicle Identification" - The name and address of the person or firm engaging in the removal of septage from on-site sewage management systems and the permit number shall be lettered on both sides of each vehicle used for septage removal purposes. Letters and numerals shall not be less than two inches (2") in height and shall be readily visible.
- (4.) "Vehicle Maintenance" - Every vehicle used for removal of septage from on-site sewage management systems shall be equipped with a watertight tank or body and properly maintained. Liquid wastes shall not be transported in open bodied vehicles. All pumps, hose lines, valves and fittings shall be maintained so as to prevent leakage.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1,31-2-1,31-2-2,31-2-4,31-2-7.

.12 Grease Traps

- (1.) "Grease Traps Required" - Grease traps shall be required for commercial or industrial establishments with on-site sewage management systems where it is determined by the County Board of Health that the amount of grease introduced into the system is in excess of 50 mg/L.
- (2.) "Grease Trap Design" - Plans and specifications for grease traps shall be submitted to the County Board of Health for approval. The County Board of Health shall review the grease trap design in accordance with minimum design and construction criteria established by the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. Effluent from grease traps shall be disposed of in a septic tank and not directly discharged to the absorption field. Grease traps shall be located, installed and constructed so that the temperature of the sewage will be reduced to permit congealing or separation of grease, and easy access for cleaning is provided.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1,31-2-1,31-2-2,31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.13 Sewage Flow

"Sizing" - Sizing of on-site sewage management systems shall be determined from the Department's current Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. The daily sewage flow may be determined by the Department after due consideration of data

submitted by the owner or his agent on design criteria. Calculations will be made on the basis of peak flow and not on long term averages.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4

.14 Subdivision and Mobile Home Parks

- (1.) "Pre-development Review" - It is recommended that developers considering subdivision or mobile home park development where public or community sewage treatment systems will not be available seek a predevelopment review by the County Board of Health prior to developmental improvements. Rejection or tentative approval may be obtained by submitting a boundary plat including:
 - (a) A vicinity map.
 - (b) A topographic map.
 - (c) A preliminary soil study conducted in compliance with the Department's current Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
- (2.) "Proposals and Plans Required" - The following information is required for subdivision and mobile home park proposals:
 - (a) A boundary plat drawn to a reasonable scale which includes:
 - (1) A vicinity map
 - (2) Proposed lots and streets including lot identification, dimensions, building lines and square footage of lots;
 - (3) A topographic map depicted in two (2) foot contour intervals, provided, however, that lesser contour intervals may be approved by the County Board of Health if the slope is sufficiently steep;
 - (4) A soil map and soil descriptions based on a high intensity soil study conducted in compliance with the Department's current Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems;
 - (5) The location of all present and proposed wells, water systems, water courses, flood plains, sewage systems, structures, right-of-ways, utilities, storm water drainage systems and easements on the property and within one hundred feet (100') outside the perimeter of the property; and
 - (6) The name, registration number and seal of the professional surveyor or engineer.
 - (b) A completed Subdivision Analysis Record on forms provided by the Department.
 - (c) A copy of the following documents issued by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources:
 1. The land disturbance activity permit;
 2. The letters of approval to begin construction of a public water supply system and approving the source of the water supply where a public water supply system is to be utilized; and
 3. The approved storm water pollution prevention plan, where applicable.
- (3.) "Approval Required" - No person may sell, offer for sale, lease, rent, begin construction or otherwise begin the physical development of a lot or lots in a subdivision or mobile home park until written approval of plans for water supply and sewage disposal has been obtained from the County Board of Health. This approval constitutes general acceptance of all lots not excluded for development of on-site sewage management systems. (Excluded lots may receive further consideration based on additional information.)
- (4.) "Limits on Use of On-Site Sewage Management Systems for Subdivision and Mobile Home Parks" - Approval of subdivision and mobile home parks utilizing on-

site sewage management systems shall not be granted:

- (a) When a public or community sewage system is available within five hundred feet (500') off the subdivision or mobile home park:
 - (b) When soil maps, descriptions, and reports compiled by a registered Soil Classifier indicate that soil conditions prohibit safe development of on-site sewage management systems.
 - (c) Prior to receipt of letter(s) from Environmental Protection Division approving the plans to construct the public water supply system and approving the source of the water supply where a public water supply system is to be utilized.
- (5.) "Construction Permits" - Construction permits for on-site sewage management systems shall be issued in accordance with section 290-5-26-.03(2)(a) of the Rules for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.

Legal Authority O.C.G.A. Sections: 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7, 31-3-6.

.15 Subdivision, Mobile Home Park Water and Sewage.

- (1.) "Subdivision and Mobile Home Park Water Supply" -
 - (a) Connection to a public water supply system shall be required if available within one thousand feet (1,000') of the proposed subdivision or mobile home park.
 - (b) Where a public water supply system will not be utilized, lots shall be sized to accommodate individual wells.
- (2.) "Subdivision and Mobile Home Park Percolation Tests - Where required for planning purposes and determination of the general absorptive capacity of soils, the number of percolation tests to be made shall be one (1) per lot, in the area where absorption fields are to be located. Preparatory to construction of on-site sewage management systems, individual lots within the proposed development shall comply with Section 290-5-26-.14 of the Rules for On-site Sewage Management Systems.
- (3.) "Subdivision and Mobile Home Park Test Bores" - Where required for planning purposes, test bores to determine groundwater elevations and subsurface rock formations shall be made at locations, in numbers and at depths to be determined by the Department or County Board of Health.

Legal Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7.

.16 Certification and Decertification of Septic Tank Contractors, Inspection Personnel, Pumpers, Soil Classifiers and Maintenance Personnel

- (1.) "Definitions"
 - (a) "Contractor" means any person who shall contract for the installation, construction, repair, alteration, enlargement, emptying, or pumping out of any on-site sewage management system.
 - (b) "Health Director" means Health Director of Gwinnett County, Georgia, or his authorized representative.
 - (c) "On-site System" means any system other than a public sewer system, for the disposal of sewage, liquid wastes, laundry waste water, kitchen waste water and shall include but shall not be limited to the following: (1) septic tanks (2) drain fields (3) exterior grease traps.
 - (d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, or association, and may extend and be applied to bodies, political and corporate.
- (2.) "Registration Certificate Required" - No person shall engage in the activities of a contractor, as defined herein, unless such person shall hold a valid certificate as a

qualified contractor issued by the Health Director, or his authorized representative. Provided, however, that every firm, corporation, association, or society engaged in the activities of a contractor shall have not less than one person who holds a valid certificate and actively supervises the on-site sewage management system work done by such firm, corporation, association, or society.

- (3.) "Examination: Issuance and Renewal of Certificates" - Upon written applications being made to the Health Director or designee by any person for a certificate as required by Sub-Section (2.), hereof, and upon such person having passed an examination with a score of 80% or better to be administered by the Health Director, or his designee, the Health Director shall issue to such person a certificate showing that such person is qualified as a contractor. Such certificate shall be issued for one (1) year and shall be renewed annually upon application by the holder of a valid certificate.
- (4.) "Denial of Certificate After Hearing" - Upon any applicant failing to pass an examination as provided in Sub-Section (3.), hereof, the Health Director, or designee shall notify such applicant of such finding and shall allow a re-examination in not less than ten days of notice. Upon an applicant failing the re-examination, said applicant may request a hearing not less than ten (10) days nor more than twenty (20) days from the date of re-examination, at which time and place applicant shall have an opportunity to appear before the Health Director or designee in person, by attorney, or both, and present such evidence as may be pertinent to the question involved.

Within a reasonable time after such hearing, not to exceed thirty (30) days, the Health Director or designee shall prepare an order, based upon the evidence presented at such hearing, either denying or granting a certificate, and a copy of such order shall be served upon the applicant in person or by the mail.

- (5.) "Revocation of Certificate After Hearing" - Whenever the work done by any person holding a certificate, as provided for herein, shall be of such inferior quality so as to suggest incompetency or negligence, written charge against such person may be filed with the Health Director by any person.

Upon such charges being filed with the Health Director, the Director of Health shall give, within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, the person filing the charges and the person whom the charges have been filed against, written notice of a time and a place for a hearing, not less than ten (10) days, nor more than twenty (20) days from the date of the notice, at which time and place both parties shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Health Director, in person by attorney, or both, and present such evidence as may be pertinent to the question involved. Along the notice of hearing, the person whom the charges have been filed against shall be furnished with a written copy of the charges filed against him.

Within a reasonable time after such hearing, not to exceed thirty (30) days, the Health Director shall prepare an order, based upon the evidence presented at such hearing, either revoking or continuing the certificate involved, and such order shall be served upon both parties in person or by mail.

- (6.) "Soil Testing Standards" - Registered soil classifier produce soil surveys inclusive of the Soil Survey Manual (United States Department of Agriculture, Handbook 18)

United States Soil Taxonomy, and mapped according to National Cooperative Soil Survey Standards. A soil survey will classify the soils according to a standard system of classification (Soil Taxonomy), plot the boundaries of soils on a map, and make predictions about the behavior of soils.

(a) All surveys will contain:

- (1) A title which states what the project is and its intensity level and use, the name of who the project is for (if applicable), the location of the project, a north arrow, and scale.
- (2) Seal of a registered soil classifier who make the map as well as their signature and date, their address and phone number. A professional soil classifier, whose name appears on a current professional soil classifier organization (National certified soil classifier and/or Georgia Professional soil classifier) list of qualified soil classifiers, classifies and maps all soils at the site. A soil classifier shall only sign off on their own work or that of a "soil classifier in training" under direct supervision of that soil classifier.
- (3) Soil series will be delineated on survey boundary. A custom interpretation table which states measured or predicted water table and bedrock depths (within 72 inches of the original soil surface), slope class, soil series name, depth to optimum percolation and predicted percolation rate at that depth, depth to any other limiting layers located, or other relative information. A custom legends for any symbols, features, or markings used on the map. A brief soil series description will be available upon request. Bored holes are flagged by the soil scientist who classifies them. All holes are bored to a minimum depth of 72 inches unless limiting layers such as rock, water, or other restrictive materials are found, or 24 inches below the depth of installation, whichever is less. All work must meet the standards of the soil survey manual for map unit purity.

(b) Technique and intensity of soil surveying:

- (1) Level 3 - the minimum standards for this soil survey are 4 holes per given acre or per lot. The entire lot should be mapped except where lot size exceed one (1) acre. Where lot size is greater than one (1) acre, a minimum area of one acre should be mapped at the location of the septic system.
- (2) Level 4 - a customized soil report used when additional soil information is required. This survey required additional borings to the primary borings of a level 3 soil report and gives more exact data for the soil series such as loading rates, series description, high water table indicators, restrictive layers, and other relative information important to the placement and design of the septic system.

.17 Maintenance and Operation

1. "Prohibited Discharge" - No person shall allow the unapproved discharge or spillage of sewage, nor shall an on-site sewage management system be used or maintained in such a manner that will allow the seepage or discharge of effluent from such system to the ground surface, to a water course, drainage ditch, open trench, canal, storm drain or storm sewer, water well, abandoned well, lake, stream, river, estuary, ground water, or other body of water.
2. "Maintenance" - The property owner shall be responsible for properly operating and

maintaining the on-site sewage management system to increase the life expectancy and prevent failure. Maintenance of the system shall be in accordance with the criteria established in the Department's current Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems. Where an on-site management system is proposed to serve facilities under separate ownership, a contract to insure proper operation and maintenance of the system signed by all the owners, shall exist as a precondition to the issuance of a permit for the construction of on-site sewage management system,

3. "Additives" - Sewage system additives which are used to enhance the operation of an on-site sewage management system must be approved by the Department. No strong basis, acids or organic solvents shall be used in the operation of the system.
4. "Existing System Evaluations" - If a performance evaluation of an existing system is conducted, the evaluation shall be performed in accordance with the procedure established in the Department's current Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
5. "Variances" - The County Board of Health may grant variances in cases of hardships where existing systems are malfunctioning.

Legal Authority O.C.G.A. Section: 12-9-1, 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-2-7, 31-3-6.

.18 Enforcement

- (1.) This regulation, upon adoption by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners shall be enforced by the Gwinnett County Board of Health, as a duly adopted Ordinance of Gwinnett County. Any person violating any provision in this Regulation shall be guilty of violating a duly adopted ordinance of Gwinnett County, and upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be punished either by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or by confinement in the county jail for a total term not to exceed sixty (60) days, or both. The court shall have the power and authority to place any person found guilty of a violation of this regulation on probation and to suspend or modify any fine or sentence. As a condition of such suspension, the court may require payment of restitution or impose other punishment allowed by law.
 - (a) Violations of this Article may be prosecuted upon citations issued by officers of the Gwinnett County Police Department or by employees of the Gwinnett County Health Department designated by the Director of that Department.

.19 Severability

- (1.) "Severability" - Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of these Rules and Regulations be declared invalid for any reason, the remainder of these Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.