



**SNOHOMISH
HEALTH
DISTRICT**

M. WARD HINDS, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

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Arlington
Brier
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Gold Bar
Granite Falls
Index
Lake Stevens
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Mill Creek
Monroe
Mountlake Terrace
Mukilteo
Snohomish
Stanwood
Sultan
Woodway

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
Courthouse
Everett, WA 98201

GENERAL INFORMATION	339-5203
ADMINISTRATION	339-5210
MAIN CLINIC	339-5220
TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC	339-5225
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING	339-5230
CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SERVICES	339-5240
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	339-5250
FOOD PROGRAM	339-5260
SANITATION PROGRAM	339-5270
VITAL STATISTICS	339-5280
SOUTH COUNTY CLINIC	775-3522
EAST COUNTY CLINIC	793-0201

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

87 - 35

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 87 - 35

RESOLUTION SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL ONSITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES

WHEREAS the Board of Health, by Resolution #84 - 23, adopted WAC 248-96 as the Rules and Regulations Governing Onsite Sewage Disposal to be followed and enforced by the Snohomish Health District, and

WHEREAS WAC 248-96-025 Local Regulation, section (8) states, "Nothing in these regulations shall prohibit the adoption and enforcement of more stringent regulations by local health departments where such regulations are needed to protect the public health," and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health recognizes that public health practice should emphasize prevention rather than after the fact correction, and

WHEREAS it is often necessary to determine and interpret the applicability of WAC 248-96 in regard to proposed remodeling projects and construction of structures other than residences, and

WHEREAS the Board of Health recognizes that, in the absence of specific guidance on these matters, there exists a situation whereby a consistent application of the rules and regulations is precluded, enforcement is rendered problematical, and the preventive, public health objectives of the rules and regulations are circumvented,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Health adopts the attached document, titled: "Supplemental Onsite Sewage Disposal Policies and Procedures", to protect the public health.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 1987.

Edward M. Morrow, Vice Chairman
Board of Health

ATTEST:

M. Ward Hinds, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

July 14, 1987

MWH: gam

Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Resolution Number 87 - 35
July 14, 1987

Section 1 - Title These administrative policies and procedures shall be known as the "Supplemental Onsite Sewage Disposal Policies and Procedures" and are established pursuant to authority vested in the Snohomish Health District Board of Health by R.C.W. 70.05.060 and WAC 248-96-025(8). These policies and procedures are adopted for the protection of public health through the mechanism of providing guidance to the Health Officer with regard to the applicability of WAC 248-96 to proposed remodeling projects and construction of structures other than residences.

Section 2 - Purpose and Policy Declared These rules and regulations are enacted as an exercise of the powers and duties of the Snohomish Health District Board of Health to preserve, promote and improve the public health. The provisions herein shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes.

It is the specific intent of these rules and regulations to prevent the development of any property, to which a public sanitary sewer is not available, to such an extent or in such a manner whereby the amount of any sewage produced on the property would exceed the property's ability to dispose of and treat said sewage effluent in a manner consistent with WAC 248-96.

Section 3 - Applicability WAC 248-96 shall apply whenever development or construction of a structure is proposed on any property to which a sanitary sewer is not available and to which water under pressure can be made available.

Section 4 - Remodeling: Approval Required All existing buildings or structures to which additions, alterations, or improvements are made after the effective date of these policies and procedures shall be served by an onsite sewage disposal system complying with WAC 248-96; provided however, the Health Officer may waive compliance with these requirements for existing buildings or structures when additions, alterations, repairs, or improvements to the building or structure are compatible with and do not adversely impact the existing onsite sewage disposal system and potential reserve drainfield area, the system is adequate to treat the onsite sewage expected to be generated over the remaining useful life of the structure, and the continued operation of the system will not adversely effect public health, surface water quality, or ground water quality.

A. Application for approval by the Health Officer of an existing onsite sewage disposal system serving an existing building undergoing addition, alteration, repair, or improvement shall be made as provided in this section. The application shall be made on forms provided by the Health Officer.

B. The Health Officer shall review all applications to determine compatibility of the proposed addition, alteration, repair, or improvement with the existing onsite sewage disposal system.

1. Factors that must be considered shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. location of septic tank and drainfield in relation to existing foundation and proposed improvements;
- b. size of drainfield in relation to proposed use;
- c. condition of existing onsite sewage disposal system;
- d. useful anticipated life of the existing onsite sewage disposal system;
- e. potential for reconstruction, replacement, and/or repair of the existing onsite sewage disposal system;
- f. ultimate purpose of the remodeling;
- g. approved source of water; and
- h. potential use of the structure after remodeling.

2. The Health Officer may require the applicant to furnish such exhibits and information as may be deemed relevant and necessary to the application.

C. After reviewing the application, the Health Officer shall notify the building authority and applicant that either:

1. The application is approved, or
2. Correction is required to accommodate the application's approval, or
3. The application is disapproved and the reasons therefor.

Section 10 - Severability Should any part of these rules and regulations be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

Section 11 - Effective Date These rules and regulations shall take effect upon the date of approval by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.