



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
REGULATORY SERVICES BRANCH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

EHS Circular Letter #2007-12

Date: April 27, 2007

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Professional Engineers

From: Robert W. Scully, PE
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Environmental Engineering Program

Subject: Geothermal Wells Relative to Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems

The January 1, 2007 revisions to the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems included a special provision under Item A in Table No. 1 of Section II, that allows this Department to reduce the separating distance to geothermal wells. This circular letter authorizes a reduction of the minimum separation distance to closed loop geothermal systems in certain instances. The separation distances are consistent with the recommendations included in a Department report to the Connecticut General Assembly on Geothermal Systems. For more information on the report including additional recommendations concerning geothermal systems refer to EHS Circular Letter #2007-11. No reduction to the minimum separation distance between open loop geothermal systems and subsurface sewage disposal systems is authorized.

The minimum separation distance between a subsurface sewage disposal system and a closed loop geothermal system shall be reduced below 75 feet if a licensed well driller certifies that they will follow the recommendations made in the above noted report to the legislature concerning the installation of the vertical borehole and the geothermal system. This certification can be made on the well drilling permit or as an attached document. In these instances, the minimum separation distance to the subsurface sewage disposal system, excluding watertight tanks, shall be 50 feet. The minimum separation distance to a septic tank, pump chamber or grease interceptor tank shall be further reduced to 25 feet if the tank is determined to be watertight in accordance with the provisions in Technical Standards Section V A 6.

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