

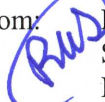
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EHS Circular Letter #2009-62

Date: October 1, 2009

To: Directors of Health, Chief Sanitarians & Design Engineers

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

Subject: DPH Plan Reviews and Fees for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems

This circular letter concerns the Department's review of subsurface sewage disposal system (SSDS) design plans prepared by a professional engineer (PE). Public Act No. 09-3, Section 165 (b) increased the fees that the Department of Public Health (DPH) must charge for the review of PE plans for small and large subsurface sewage disposal systems (SSDSs). A small SSDS serves a building with a design flow less than 2,000 gallons per day (GPD), whereas a large SSDS serves a building with a design flow from 2,000 to 5,000 GPD. Effective October 1, 2009, the new DPH review fee schedule for PE plans is as follows:

- Small SSDS Plan: \$200 per SSDS
- Large SSDS Plan: \$625 per SSDS

Public Health Code (PHC) Section 19-13-B103d (c) stipulates that each plan for a large SSDS must be designed by a PE licensed in Connecticut, and that the plan must be approved by DPH prior to construction of the SSDS. In accordance with health code regulations, plans must be submitted directly to the local health department, which shall forward the plans together with their review comments to DPH for consideration of approval. The local health department is also required to approve the plans, as well as fulfill other administrative and field related functions such as permit issuance, assuring accuracy of soil testing, and performing SSDS installation inspections. Only local health officials who are Phase II certified pursuant to PHC Section 19-13-B103e (b)(2)(B) may approve SSDS plans prepared by a PE. DPH requests advance notification for each site investigation for a large SSDS so that program staff can participate if scheduling allows. An electronic notification that includes site information and a project narrative is preferred.

DPH plan approvals are not required on sites with multiple small SSDSs, regardless of the site's total cumulative design flow, unless the property includes at least one large SSDS. Any site that has a large SSDS is considered a "large system site", and all other SSDSs (small and large) proposed on these sites require DPH approval. Plan submittals to DPH on large system sites must include documentation that all existing sewage systems on the site are operating satisfactorily. Plan submittals for new construction or intensification of uses (i.e., changes in use) must also identify code-complying areas for all existing wastewater generating buildings on the site, as required by PHC Section 19-13-B100a.

Phone: **860-509-7296**



Telephone Device for the Deaf: (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # **513EW**

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

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The following are three examples of large system sites that require DPH approval of SSDS plans; fee computations and amounts are also provided:

Example #1: Site plan proposes two large SSDSs.
Fee: $\$625 + \$625 = \$1250$ total

Example #2: Site plan proposes one large SSDS and one small SSDS.
Fee: $\$625 + \$200 = \$825$ total

Example #3: Site plan proposes two small SSDSs for two new buildings on a site with an existing large SSDS. As previously noted, documentation would need to be submitted confirming that the large SSDS is operating satisfactorily, and that a code complying area is available for the large SSDS building.
Fee: $\$200 + \$200 = \$400$ total

It should be noted that even if a site is not a "large system site", the Local Director of Health may request a DPH review of a small SSDS plan if, in the opinion of the Local Director of Health, such a review is warranted based on site limitations/restrictions, or for technical complexities of the SSDS design. The review fee for multiple small SSDSs that are to be reviewed by DPH at the request of the Local Director of Health is calculated as shown in the below example:

Example #4: Site plan proposes 8 small SSDSs.
Fee: $8 \text{ systems} \times \$200 \text{ per system} = \1600 total

Local Directors of Health are also strongly encouraged to request DPH review of small SSDSs that are not located on large system sites when the property owner does not own the SSDSs. There are instances when condominium common interest communities establish individual "unit areas" that encompass both the building served and the SSDS, giving ownership of each SSDS to the unit owner rather than the condominium association. In these situations, plans must 1) demonstrate that designated unit areas and limited common element areas provide sufficient area for SSDS installation and operation, and 2) detail how routine SSDS maintenance and repair responsibilities, and enforcement protocols for SSDSs causing health hazards or nuisance conditions shall be handled.

PE plans submitted to DPH for a review must include the appropriate fee. Fees shall be made payable to: Treasurer, State of Connecticut. Please contact this program directly if you have any questions regarding DPH SSDS plan submittals or review fee requirements.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, DPH
Code Advisory Committee