

Quick Answers
to
Tough Questions

Common OSSF Misconceptions

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Myths and/or Misconceptions

There are myths and/or misconceptions for just about all aspects of the On-site industry. This negative information tends to get in the way of the best efforts by professionals and regulators to make it all work properly.

In order to provide consistency within the regulated community, this will be an attempt to set the record straight.

**WHERE IS A PERMIT NOT
REQUIRED?**

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REQUIRED?**

Ten Acre Rule



WHERE IS A PERMIT NOT REQUIRED?

Ten Acre Rule



Oil/Gas Drill Site



Permits are Required

For OSSFs located within jurisdiction of:

- **Military Bases**

Permits are Required

For OSSFs located within jurisdiction of:

- Military Bases
- **Federal Border Check Points / Stations**

Permits are Required

For OSSFs located within jurisdiction of:

- Military Bases
- Federal Border Check Points / Stations
- **Corps of Engineers**

Permits are Required

For OSSFs located within jurisdiction of:

- Military Bases
- Federal Border Check Points / Stations
- Corps of Engineers
- **State and Federal Parks**

Ten Acre Rule

Ten Acre Rule

Does TH&SC 366.052 conflict with 285.3(f)(2)?



No Conflict

- TH&SC 366.055 INSPECTIONS not specifically referenced in TH&SC 366.052



No Conflict

- TH&SC 366.055 INSPECTIONS not specifically referenced in TH&SC 366.052
- 30 TAC 285.3(f)(2) : “No planning materials, permit, or *inspection* are required...”



“Show Me Where There Are Any Rules for a 10 Acre OSSF Installation”

“Show Me Where There Are Any Rules for a 10 Acre OSSF Installation”

285.3(f)(2) *No planning materials, permit, or inspection are required for an OSSF for a **single** family dwelling located on a tract of land that is ten acres or larger and:*

(A) the OSSF is not causing a nuisance or polluting groundwater;

(B) all parts of the OSSF are at least 100 feet from the property line;

(C) the effluent is disposed of on the property; and

*(D) the single family dwelling is the **only** dwelling located on that tract of land.*

“Show Me Where There Are Any Rules for a 10 Acre OSSF Installation”

285.30. *Site Evaluation.*

*(a) General Requirement. To document the soil and site conditions, **a complete site evaluation shall be performed by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer on every tract of land where an OSSF will be installed.***

*(b) Site evaluation criteria. All aspects of the site evaluation shall be performed by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer according to this section. The information obtained during **the site evaluation shall be used to determine the type and size of the OSSF.***

“Show Me Where There Are Any Rules for a 10 Acre OSSF Installation”

*285.61. Duties and Responsibilities of Installers.
An installer shall:*

*(6) construct an OSSF to meet the minimum criteria **required** by this chapter ...*

“Show Me Where There Are Any Rules for a 10 Acre OSSF Installation”

Remember:

A second dwelling requires a permit.

“Can I Get a Notice of Approval Prior to Home Construction?”



“Can I Get a Notice of Approval Prior to Home Construction?”

Discretion of Local Permitting Authority



Requirements for OSSF Permitting Beauty Shops



Small Shop - No
Large Salon/Spa – No

It's Not Domestic Sewage



Requirements for OSSF Permitting Car Wash

No!

It's Not Domestic Sewage



Requirements for OSSF Permitting Funeral Homes

No!

It's Not Domestic Sewage



Requirements for OSSF Permitting Groomer / Kennel

Yes, with careful
Consideration and
Design



Requirements for OSSF Permitting Vet Clinic

Yes / No, with careful
Consideration and
Design



Porta-Cans Problem or Solution?



Porta-Cans

Problem or Solution?

- Holding tank provisions do not apply to portable toilets or construction trailers.
- Special provisions addressing this issue can be added to local order.



Where Does Plumber Stop and OSSF Installer Start?



Where Does Plumber Stop and OSSF Installer Start?

Plumbers can Go To but NOT Connect To the first OSSF treatment device.

Cluster Systems

Cluster systems may be permitted under this chapter for single residential units connected to their outbuildings such as barns, guest quarters, pool houses or similar structures on a single tract of land.



“As Built – Show Me in the Rules!”



“As Built – Show Me in the Rules!”

- **285.3(1)** *All aspects of the permitting, planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of OSSFs shall be conducted according to this chapter...*
- **285.61. Duties and Responsibilities of Installers.**
An installer shall:
 - (3) *provide true and accurate information on any application or any other documentation;*
 - (6) *construct an OSSF to meet the minimum criteria required by this chapter or the more stringent requirements of the permitting authority;*
 - (7) *construct the OSSF that has been authorized by the permitting authority for the specific location identified in the site evaluation;*
 - (8) *stop construction and return to the permitting authority to change the planning materials for the permit if site or soil conditions, materials, or supplies make compliance with the planning materials impossible;*

Testing and reporting – who's looking?



J #: 1077
Time: _____
Agency: _____

13231

Testing and Reporting Record

1. Required number of site visits per year: 3 Date of this site visit: 3/14/07

2. System Address: _____ City, ST Zip: _____
Property Owner(s): Mary

3. Findings:

Inspected Item	Operational	Nonoperational	Not Applicable
Aerators			
Filters			
Irrigation Pumps			
Recirculation Pumps			
Disinfection Device			
Chlorine Supply			
Electrical Circuits			
Distribution System			
Field Vegetation/Seeding (if applicable)			
Other as Noted			

4. Test Results:

Tests Performed	Required (Y/N)	Results	Test Method
BOD			
TSS			
Cl ₂			
Fecal Coliform			

5. Repairs to System: No access to Big Goose

6. Comments: _____

7. Dates Responded to Owner During Reporting Period: _____

8. I _____ (name) _____ (signature)

RECEIVED

APR 23 2007

BY: _____

“Do I have to have profile holes for ATU installations?”



Yes!

“Do I have to have profile holes for ATU installations?”

285.30. Site Evaluation.

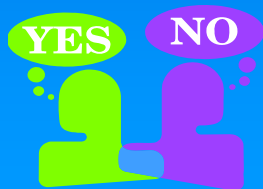
(a) **General Requirement.** To document the soil and site conditions, a complete site evaluation shall be performed by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer on every tract of land where an OSSF will be installed. A report prepared by either the site evaluator or the professional engineer providing the site evaluation criteria in subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted with the planning materials.

(b) **Site evaluation criteria.** All aspects of the site evaluation shall be performed by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer according to this section. The information obtained during the site evaluation shall be used to determine the type and size of the OSSF.

(1) **Soil analysis.** The site evaluator or the professional engineer shall either drill two soil borings or excavate two backhoe pits at opposite ends of the proposed disposal area to determine the characteristics of the soil. In areas of high soil variability, the permitting authority may require additional borings or backhoe pits. The borings or backhoe pits shall either be excavated to a depth of two feet below the adopted excavation of the disposal area, or to a restrictive horizon, whichever is less. The location of all borings or backhoe pits shall be clearly indicated on the site drawing required in §285.5(a) of this title (relating to Submittal Requirements for Planning Materials).

Leaky tank? Patch it or Pull it

- Initial Install – Discretion of Local Permitting Authority
- Emergency Repair – in-situ repair only



Leaky tank? Patch it or Pull it

Reminder: Concrete tank manufacturers must be able to demonstrate (by PE report) that their tanks meet applicable sections of ASTM C 1227, as evidenced by a PE report.

ATU Replacement Parts

- **Where does a homeowner get parts?**
- **Where will uncertified maintenance providers get their parts?**

ATU Replacement Parts

**From Manufacturer
Or
Manufacturer's Certified Dealer**

Repair and Replace

Repair--To replace any components of an on-site sewage facility (OSSF) in situations not included under emergency repairs according to §285.35 of this title (relating to Emergency Repairs), excluding maintenance. The replacement of tanks or drainfields is considered a repair and requires a permit for the entire OSSF system.

Height Requirements for Surface Application Sprinkler Heads

Height Requirements for Surface Application Sprinkler Heads

None

Effluent Disinfection

- **Liquid Chlorinators**
- **Liquid Household Bleach**
- **Pool Tablets**
- **H₂O₂ – Hydrogen Peroxide**

Effluent Disinfection

- Liquid Chlorinators - **Yes**
- Liquid Household Bleach - **Yes**
- Pool Tablets – **No**
- H_2O_2 – Hydrogen Peroxide – **No**

Approved Method for Measuring Chlorine Residual

Approved Method for Measuring Chlorine Residual

- **Verification that the chlorinator is providing chlorine to effluent.**
- **Test is a pass/fail**
- **If it's working, residual will be much greater than required 0.1mg/l**
- **K.I.S.S. Method – DPD comparator test kit or color wheel**
- **Disinfection not sterilization of the effluent.**

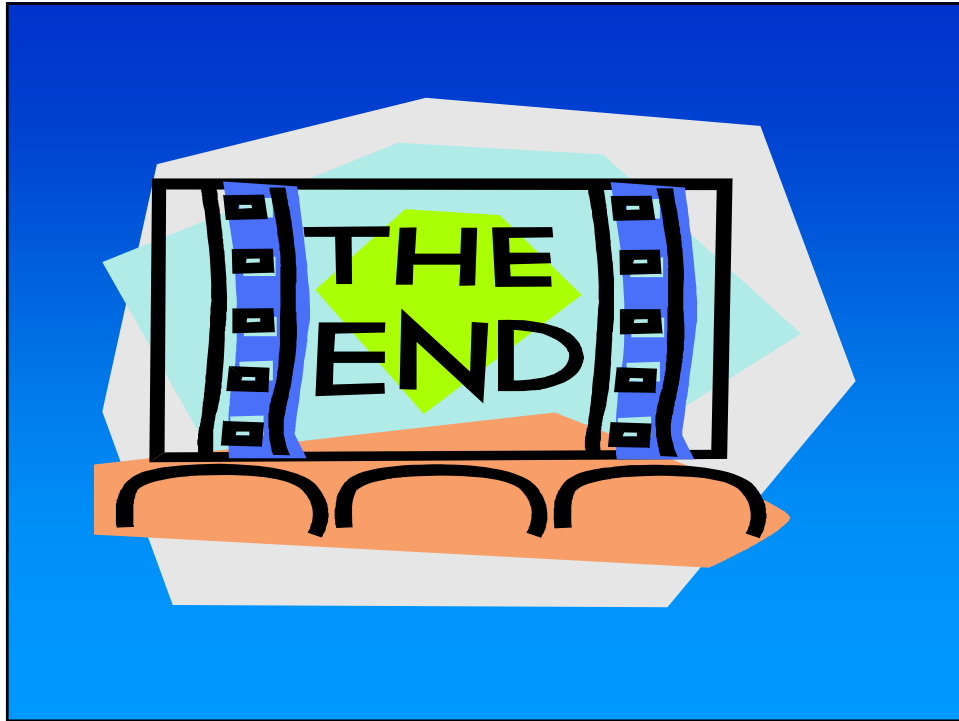
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Questions

