

Jefferson County Public Health – Planned Performance Measures 2012

On- Site Sewage (OSS) & Septic Operations and Monitoring (O&M) Programs

MISSION: The mission of the Onsite Sewage Program is to minimize the threat of surface and ground water contamination from failing or improperly designed, installed or maintained onsite sewage systems. The mission of the Operation and Monitoring Program is to protect public health by ensuring onsite sewage systems are monitored, identify failures, and items that may lead to costly premature failures of OSS that contaminate ground and surface waters.

GOALS FOR FY 2012:

1. Educate homeowners, builders, real estate personnel, banks, installers, designers and onsite system maintenance personnel in the proper operation and maintenance of onsite sewage systems.
2. Assure a high quality-onsite sewage system monitoring program.
3. Implement and enforce state and local rules and regulations governing the installation and use of onsite sewage systems.
4. Investigate action requests and complaints in a timely manner to reduce the threat of human contact with untreated wastewater.
5. Complete all state funded grant activities on-time and on-budget.
6. Assure high quality customer service.
7. Establish a Homeowner Inspection Program to comply with monitoring requirements under WAC 246-272A.

OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2012:

1. Develop written informational materials for public distribution and conduct workshops for community groups addressing onsite sewage system operation and maintenance.
2. Provide training to community groups to increase awareness of regulatory requirements for onsite sewage systems.
3. Review monitoring and inspection reports and provide timely follow up and coordinate with online submittal program data.
4. Identify previously unknown onsite sewage systems.
5. Utilize existing data systems to track action requests and complaints.
6. Update Local Management Plan to reflect progress and necessary changes.
7. Assure communication with applicants regarding the status of onsite sewage permit applications.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Proposed	2012 Proposed
Number of systems repaired/upgraded	32	32	37	35	38
Percent of system failures less than 5 years in use	0	0	0	0	0
Number of complaints received	42	43	52	45	50
Number of complaints closed	24	19	33	25	32
Number of septic permit applications submitted ¹	231	169	158	180	120
Number of evaluations of existing system (EES)	295	255	463	350	300
Percent of existing systems receiving regular 3 rd party monitoring. ²	2.2%	1.8%	3.4%	2.5%	2.8%
# of previously unknown systems having a monitoring inspection	15	9	10+ 59 ⁵	40	35
Percent of monitoring inspections resulting in some maintenance needed.	29%	28%	56% ⁴	29%	29%
Percent of monitoring inspections resulting in required significant maintenance or repair.	12.5%	16%	18.7%	15%	15%
Percent of failures/major maintenance	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%
Number of educational workshops	6	5	19	20	15
Number of workshop participants	239	102	355	300	250

¹Number of applications does not equal approved permits

² Based on estimated 13,500 systems in the County (from the Local Sewage Management Plan)

SUMMARY OF KEY FUNDING/SERVICE ISSUES: Tracking will be done with existing data systems to evaluate effectiveness of permitting and monitoring programs. Ongoing O&M activities will be funded through permit and inspections fees as well as the newly formed Clean Water District and state and federal grants. Implementation will focus on developing and implementing a system to allow homeowners to be trained, complete monitoring inspections and report results to meet state requirements for assurance that OSS system are functioning properly. Follow-up with homeowners on inspection results is critical to the understanding of how systems work and why maintenance and proper operation is important. A system for correspondence and follow-up is under development. We will conduct community outreach to increase awareness of the new requirements. An incentive program to assist homeowners in completing inspections and install access risers and monitoring ports is in development for implementation in 2012-2013.

Identification of previously unknown onsite sewage systems is ongoing as part of a project in the Marine Recovery Area (MRA) along the Hood Canal. The project will move forward the work identified in the Local Onsite Sewage Management Plan that requires identification of all unknown systems by 2012.

The Local Management Plan will be reviewed and updated to identify successes and update information.

Onsite sewage permitting and staffing has declined due to the economic downturn of the past several years. The number of permits received dropped significantly in 2011. The team continues to strive to maintain effective communication with our clients and partners (other state and local departments) to effectively manage workload and requests for information while diligently reviewing and enforcing county code and policies.