



Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Guidance Regarding License Requirements for Operators of an Alternative Sewage System Exceeding 10,000 GPD

Adopted: October 28, 2021

Effective Date: December 23, 2021

I. Background

Board staff continues to receive inquiries regarding the license requirements for those acting as an operator of an alternative sewage system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day design flow. Specifically, Board staff has been asked whether a single individual must hold both licenses or whether two individuals can work together for operations on an alternative onsite sewage system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day.

II. Applicable Regulations and Minutes Excerpt

18VAC160-40-170 F of the Board's regulations states: "No individual shall act as an alternative onsite sewage system operator of an alternative onsite sewage system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day design flow without possessing a Class 4 or higher wastewater works operator license in addition to an alternative onsite sewage system operator license".

As reflected in the January 29, 2019, Board meeting minutes, the Board previously considered

this issue and agreed by consensus that one individual must hold both an alternative onsite sewage system operator license and a Class 4 or higher wastewater works operator license in order to operate and alternative system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day, and two individuals would not meet the licensing requirement by partnering with one another.

III. Consideration of Board Policy

At the April 29, 2021, Board meeting, the Board revisited this subject and requested that staff prepare a draft guidance document for consideration at a future meeting. Accordingly, staff recommends the following.

As of April 2021, there are only 45 licensees that hold both a wastewater works operator license (of any class) and an alternative onsite sewage system operator license. Since the requirement that a single individual holding both licenses be responsible for operations on an alternative onsite sewage system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day design flow may be overly-burdensome and restrictive for some areas of the state, the Board adopts guidance as follows:

An alternative onsite sewage system that exceeds 10,000 gallons per day design flow is required to have operations and maintenance performed by either (i) an individual who is licensed as both an alternative onsite sewage system operator and a Class 4 or higher wastewater works operator, or (ii) an individual who is licensed as an alternative onsite sewage system operator and an individual who is licensed as a Class 4 or higher wastewater works operator who are working together pursuant to an employment relationship, contract, or other written agreement.