Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations (SHDR)
Programmatic Changes – Revisions Subgroup

Date: June 14, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: WebEx virtual meeting

Attendees:
Lance Gregory – VDH
Anne Powell – VDH
Curtis Moore – Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA)
Anthony Creech – VDH
Tanya Pettus – Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR)
Joshua Anderson – Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD)
Josh Hepner – LCHD
Ryan Fincham – LCHD
Mike Lynn – Sewage Handling and Disposal Advisory Committee (SHADAC)
John Sawdy – Licensed Onsite Soil Evaluator, License Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Operator, Licensed
            OSS Installer
Tom Ashton – Licensed Onsite Soil Evaluator, Certified Professional Soil Scientist

1. **Welcome / Brief Introductions**
   Anne Powell welcomed the attendees to the meeting and performed a brief roll call of all attendees.

2. **Follow-Up from May Meeting (notes posted to Town Hall)**
   Anne Powell stated that the meeting summary from the May subgroup meeting is posted on the Virginia
   Regulatory Town Hall website. Anne Powell asked the attendees if anyone had any questions or concerns
   in reference to that meeting summary; no comments from the meeting attendees.

3. **Continuing discussion on suggested programmatic changes.**

   Upcoming Discussion for Design and Construction Subgroup
   Anthony Creech mentioned that in the upcoming Design and Construction subgroup, the discussion will
   address abandonment of unused septic system. The next Design and Construction subgroup is on June 16,
   2022 at 10:00 am.

   Operation and Maintenance Reporting Database
   Lance Gregory mentioned recent concerns about the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) reporting
   database. VDH recently sent out letters to property owners who have Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems
   (AOSS) that have not had O&M performed in the required timeframe. Many letters were mistakenly sent
   to property owners who had O&M done and the operator had submitted a report. The onsite wastewater
   industry is pushing for a forward-facing database so owners and operators can see information about
   O&M, applications, etc. This may not be a true regulatory change, but it may be a change that helps
   improve the VDH's onsite sewage program. VDH has funding to create database for Three Rivers and
   Eastern Shore Health District's pump-out program. The database will be available for reporting pump-
   outs statewide.

Discussions from Other Subgroups

Curtis Moore mentioned the conversation in another subgroup meeting about transferring of designs/permits without oversight from the designer. Mr. Moore inquired with the professional engineering community and the consensus is that while their seal may last forever, the work performed is for a specific client.

Hardship Guidelines Update

Lance Gregory stated that he has run reports in order to update the VDH hardship guidelines. Currently, about 94% of onsite designs are submitted by private sector OSE/PE. The transition of design services has been relatively smooth with no extreme push back from the public.

Curtis Moore mentioned that with the transition of design services, VDH has become the record keeper, the rule maker, and the rule enforcer. Lance Gregory mentioned that VDH has considered separating the permitting and enforcement. Joshua Anderson mentioned that he has experience in local health districts with separate compliance staff. Mr. Anderson mentioned that there have been issues with finding qualified staff and maintaining even workloads. Mr. Anderson also mentioned that the long-term goal in the Loudoun County Health Department is to use the compliance staff for all environmental health programs (i.e. restaurants, hotels, pools).

4. **Conclusion**

In preparation for the next subgroup meeting, Anne Powell intends to compile a summary of resource needs for VDH with proposed programmatic changes, included database needs.

Anne Powell concluded the meeting with the mention of the next meeting date on July 12, 2022 at 10:00 am.

AGENDA
1. Review previous meeting summary.
2. Continued discussion on suggested programmatic changes.