



Virginia  
Regulatory  
Town Hall

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## Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation</b>	18VAC160-20
<b>Regulation title</b>	Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals Regulations
<b>Action title</b>	Regulatory Review
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	January 16, 2013

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

### Purpose

*Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulatory action. Also include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.*

In response to the Governor's Regulatory Reform initiative, the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals seeks to review and amend its current regulations to repeal regulations that are unnecessary or no longer in use and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on regulated groups.

### Legal basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Your citation should include a specific provision authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency/board/person's overall regulatory authority.*

§ 54.1-201.5 of the *Code of Virginia* (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-201>) states that the Board has the power and duty “To promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ [2.2-4000](#) et seq.) necessary to assure continued competency, to prevent deceptive or misleading practices by practitioners and to effectively administer the regulatory system administered by the regulatory board.”

§ 54.1-2301 of the *Code of Virginia* (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-2301>) provides the authority for the Board to promulgate regulations for the licensure of onsite sewage system professionals, waterworks operators, and wastewater works operators. The content of the regulations is pursuant to the Board’s discretion, but shall not be in conflict with the purposes of the statutory authority.

**Need**

*Please detail the specific reasons why the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. In addition, delineate any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.*

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The proposed amendments will focus solely on a general but comprehensive review of the existing regulations. The review will amend the regulations to eliminate burdensome entry requirements while continuing to effectively protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

**Substance**

*Please detail any changes that will be proposed. Be sure to define all acronyms. For new regulations, include a summary of the proposed regulatory action. Where provisions of an existing regulation are being amended, explain how the existing regulation will be changed.*

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The proposed amendment will eliminate the need to provide documentation by specific professionals as currently required at 18VAC160-20-97.C.2.a. The Board may identify additional areas for amendment or elimination of regulations in accordance with the Governor’s Regulatory Reform initiative while drafting the proposed text.

**Alternatives**

*Please describe all viable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that have been or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action. Also, please describe the process by which the agency has considered or will consider other alternatives for achieving the need in the most cost-effective manner.*

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No viable alternatives have been identified.

**Public participation**

*Please indicate whether the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the*

*alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also, indicate whether a public hearing is to be held to receive comments on this notice.*

*Please also indicate pursuant to your Public Participation Guidelines whether a panel will be appointed to assist in the development of the proposed regulation. Please state one of the following: 1) a panel will be appointed and the agency's contact if you're interested in serving on the panel is \_\_\_\_\_; 2) a panel will not be used; or 3) public comment is invited as to whether to use a panel to assist in the development of this regulatory proposal.*

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The agency is seeking comments on this regulatory action, including but not limited to 1) ideas to be considered in the development of this proposal, 2) the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this background document or other alternatives and 3) potential impacts of the regulation. The agency is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. Information may include 1) projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs, 2) the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses, and 3) the description of less intrusive or costly alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

Anyone wishing to submit comments may do so via the Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>), or by mail, email, or fax to Trisha Henshaw, Executive Director, Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233; email: [WaterWasteOper@dpor.virginia.gov](mailto:WaterWasteOper@dpor.virginia.gov); fax: 866-350-5354. Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered, comments must be received by midnight on the last day of the public comment period.

A public hearing will be held following the publication of the proposed stage of this regulatory action and notice of the hearing will be posted on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>) and on the Commonwealth Calendar website (<http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi>). Both oral and written comments may be submitted at that time.

The agency is using the participatory approach in the development of the proposal. Pursuant to the Public Participation Guidelines, 18VAC160-11-10 *et seq.*, a panel will not be used.

### Family impact

*Assess the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.*

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The proposed regulatory action will have no impact on the institution of the family and family stability.