



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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June 20, 1994

GMP #53

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Directors
Environmental Health Managers
Environmental Health Supervisors
Environmental Health Specialists

FROM: Donald J. Alexander, Director 
Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

SUBJECT: **Authority When Inspecting Pump Station Electrical Controls**
Onsite - Policy - Construction Inspection

This GMP will clarify the authority and responsibility of the environmental health specialist when inspecting the electrical controls and alarm for a pump station. The environmental health specialists has only the authority outlined in Sections 4.23.B.8 and 4.23.B.9 of the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations. *This authority includes, and is limited to, determining if the following have occurred or are present:*

1. Controls are provided (and working) for automatically starting and stopping the pump based on the water level.
2. If float type controls are used, they are placed so as to be unaffected by the flow entering the pump chamber.
3. When multiple pumps are used, controls are provided (and working) which automatically alternate the pumps.
4. The electrical motor control center and master disconnect switch are placed in a secure location above grade, and remote from the pump station.
5. A manual override switch is provided (and working) for each motor control center.

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6. A high water alarm with remote sensing and electrical circuitry is provided (and working) and is separate from the motor control center circuitry.
7. The high water alarm is audiovisual, and located in an area where it is easily monitored.
8. When multiple pumps are used, an additional audiovisual alarm is provided (and working) and is activated when a pump motor fails to start on demand.
9. All electrical conduits passing into the pump chamber are sealed with a water stop.

In general, an inspection of the controls and alarm of a pumping chamber is limited to determining if the proper components are present, and that they are functional. The environmental health specialist does not have the authority, or the responsibility, to provide advice with respect to the type of electrical components used, or how they are wired.

pc: Office of Environmental Health Services Staff
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