

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Sewage  
Handling and Disposal Regulations  
Design & Construction – Revisions Subgroup**

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** WebEx

**Attendees:**

Anthony Creech – VDH  
Anne Powell – VDH  
Scott Vogel - VDH  
Lance Gregory - VDH  
Andrew Carter – VDH (Chickahominy District)  
Stephen Elgin - VDH  
Robert Royall – VWWA  
Jerry Franklin - OSE  
Joshua Anderson – Loudoun County Health District (LCHD)  
Josh Hepner – Loudoun County  
Bill Timmons – Citizen  
Father Patrick Rodgers – Rodgers Precast Consulting  
Curtis Moore – Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA)  
Trevor Hudson – OSE  
Philip Brown – VA Tech – Cooperative Extension  
Ryan Fincham – Loudoun County

**1. Review Notes from May Meeting**

No edits requested.

**2. Review Workgroup’s “Purpose and Policy”**

Anthony Creech opened the meeting by discussing the purpose of the subgroup, and noted that there will likely be overlap in efforts of the different subgroups. The intention of meeting is not to begin drafting of new regulatory language but to instead identify the most pressing D&C issues to be addressed in revision of the regulations. The VDH goal is to present a NOIRA to the Board of Health in 2022.

**3. Discussion of issues**

Abandonment of Onsite Systems

Mr Creech posed the question of whether abandonment of onsite system when they are no longer used should be regulated, and if so to what degree. The ensuing discussion included:

- Pump out alone. This option did not receive substantial subgroup support because pumping

a tank alone could increase the risk of collapse, considered a serious hazard (e.g. a vehicle falling in).

- Pump out and fill with gravel. This option received support; along with reservation regarding the potential financial burden on homeowners of limited financial means.
- Pump out and fill with gravel or crush. This option received support; along with reservation regarding the potential financial burden on homeowners of limited financial means.

In general, the subgroup agreed that the issue merits consideration, with clear concern expressed that the potential cost to property owners must be taken into account.

### Stream Crossing

Lance Gregory discussed the issue of conveyance line and force main crossings of streams, ditched, and utilities. He noted that, in general, VDH addressed crossings by means of a variance or design by a P.E. He also noted that because the issue also involves building codes, and DEQ and USCOE regulations and guidelines, it is not dealt with consistently statewide. The ensuing discussion included:

- Suggestion that the regulations should include definitions, to include stream types (perennial, intermittent, ephemeral), ditches.
- Modification of Table 4.1, to include force mains as well as conveyance lines.
- Possible inclusion of sinkholes.
- SCAT regulations as a model.
- Much of this issue is incorporated into local building codes – maybe don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- Tidal and non-tidal streams may be a factor.
- DEQ, USCOE, and VMRC policies, regulations and guidance
- Should VDH push a policy (GMP) now for guidance and then move long term to address in the regulations. Alternately, should this issue be included in a fast track regulatory update.

### Section 730 – Minimum Size

The subgroup agreed that the 3" minimum seems outdated, as most modern plumbing incorporated 4". General sense was not to change the minimum, but maybe add a sentence that it must be properly sized to match the inlet of the septic tank.

### Section 740 - Slope

No change proposed.

### Section 750 – Materials

Discussion points:

- Check on whether vitrified clay is still available.
- Should connection to existing systems be clarified?
- Perhaps limit new construction to Schedule 40 PVC

- Maybe not limit heavy load to driveways alone.
- Maybe tie this in to stream crossings

### Section 760 – Sewer appurtenances

#### Discussion points:

- What about two making a 90° bend by tying two 45° elbows together? Should there be a straight section between this? Maybe specify a sweep 90° elbow, which is easier to snake.
- Maybe require a cleanout within 40 feet of any bend at least 45 degrees.

#### Future meetings

July 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am

DRAFT