

## **Summary of Stark County STS Regulations - Chapter 29**

Proposed for adoption by the Board of the Stark County Combined General Health District, the following is a summary of recommended changes to OAC 3701-29, which was adopted on January 1, 2007, then repealed on July 2, 2007. The 2007 rules were based in sound science, thus we are recommending adoption of the majority of the rules with some modifications that better deal with conditions in Stark County and more strongly consider the economics of STS installation.

**From State to County** – Many adjustments were made in OAC 3701-29 to remove the State Department of Health and replace it with the Board of Health, since they will no longer maintain oversight authority over the program.

**Definition Additions** – New definitions were added for “subsurface gravity feed flood dosing” and “lateral” to clarify the use of an additional distribution technology proposed in the regulations. “S.C.S.T.S. Regulations” was defined for the purpose of abbreviating throughout the document.

**(III) “Subsurface gravity feed flood dosing”** means a method of distribution which utilizes a dosing tank and pump (or siphon) to feed effluent into the soil absorption component, at which point effluent then flows by gravity. The piping or conduit for the effluent, trench width, flow elevations, and dose volume is configured to optimize equal flow of effluent across the length of the infiltrative surface.

**(JJJ) “S.C.S.T.S. regulations”** means the regulations adopted by the Board of the Stark County Combined General Health District governing HSTS and SFSTS.

**(KKK) “Lateral”** means a portion of the soil absorption component from a distribution device or manifold at the proximal end to its termination at the distal end along a contour.

**Septage Haulers** – The testing and competency requirements were removed for septage haulers. Installers and service providers must still demonstrate competency and take a test for registration. Lastly, bond to cover work done for all categories for a period of one year instead of two (per 2007 rules).

**Fee to be Remitted to Department of Health** - The board of health shall collect a fee outlined in HB 119 (127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) on behalf of the Department of Health and forward the fee (\$25) to the Department.

**Reinspections After Initial Inspection** – HB 119 requires that a reinspection be conducted within twelve months of installation to ensure that the system is operating properly. (Old rules required 18 months.)

**Layout and Design Plans (and Economics)** - A registered installer may submit a layout plan for more systems than in the previous rules. Many of the requirements for layout and design plans, as well as as-built plans were lessened to be more reasonable, reducing the time to prepare the plan and overall cost to the homeowner.

**Tanks** – ODH will no longer approve septic tanks. Therefore large sections of this rule were removed, and replaced with the requirement that tanks shall be manufactured to be watertight and structurally sound.

**Vertical Separation Distances (VSD)** – HB 119 stated that the local health department must adopt the VSD for groundwater and seasonal perched water tables. However, depth to bedrock reverted to 4' from 3' in the 2007 rules. We are proposing the following VSD's be adopted: 2' to seasonal perched water tables and 4' (same as bedrock) for the apparent groundwater table.

**System Design (and Economics)** – Prior to the repeal of the 2007 rules the biggest concern expressed by installers and homeowners was the need to follow pretreatment with one of two expensive distribution methods (LPP or drip irrigation). To reduce the overall system cost, but not compromise good science two additional concepts were added to design options: soil depth credits for better distribution techniques and a new distribution technique termed "subsurface gravity feed flood dosing". In many Stark County soils, these concepts will reduce system costs based on design cost, less required fill, and pump selection. Below is an excerpt of the regulations related to these concepts:

(a) A soil depth credit of one foot shall apply when distribution to the soil absorption area provides for timed micro-dosing controlled at each point of application not to exceed one quarter gallon per dose and one gallon per four square feet of infiltrative area for each point of application per day. A soil absorption component in compliance with the requirements of rule 29-13.3 of the S.C.S.T.S. Regulations shall be eligible for this soil depth credit when the provisions of this paragraph are met.

(b) A soil depth credit of ½ foot shall apply when distribution to the soil absorption area provides for equal distribution by means of pressure distribution.

(c) A soil depth credit of ¼ foot shall apply when distribution to the soil absorption area provides for improved distribution by means of subsurface gravity feed flood dosing.

**Mounds** – Mounds must be time dosed with intervals of four hours between doses. Mounds must have a minimum of six inches of sand fill above the native soil. Mounds may not use LPP for a soil depth credit.

**Option for the Most Challenging Soils** - when the minimum of one foot vertical separation distance required in the rules for a perched seasonal high water table cannot be maintained, the property may be served with timed micro-dosing (drip irrigation). In no case shall the depth to a perched seasonal high water table be less than eight inches.

**Residuals Management** - Residuals management or septage land application was modified to reflect previous Stark County Septage Regulations.