


On-site Sewage Disposal System applications for approval involving a cluster system

Approved by:


Adrian Fuller
Executive Director, Compliance


Darlene Fenton
Executive Director, Science

POLICY

Effective: **January 14, 2015**

Version Control: New Interim Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The cluster system requirements under the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSSDS) Technical Guidelines* (Section 5.13) shall only apply to cluster systems with flow exceeding 1500 liters per day.

II. DEFINITIONS

Section 2 of the OSSDS Regulations defines a cluster system:

(c) "cluster system" means a system intended to service more than 1 building, structure or dwelling;

For other definitions see the *OSSDS Regulations* and the *Technical Guidelines*.

III. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The cluster system requirements under the *OSSDS Technical Guidelines* are intended to ensure that protective measures are in place for larger scale developments such as multi-unit apartment buildings or high volume commercial properties with more than one system connection.

The cluster system requirements are not intended to capture single family residential applications that may include a second system connection such as an in-law suite, a washroom in a garage, or a multi-structure residence, **provided projected total residential sewage flows remain less than or equal to 1500 liters per day** (which is the typical maximum daily flow for a 4 or 5 bedroom home).

This policy clarifies how the cluster system requirements should be applied.

IV. APPLICATION

Section 4 of the *OSSDS Regulations* outlines when an approval is required:

Activities designated as requiring approval

4 Any of the following activities on or for a system, including a cluster system or an innovative sewage disposal system is designated as an activity under the Act that requires an approval in accordance with Section 50 of the Act:

- (a) selecting;
- (b) designing;
- (c) installing;
- (d) constructing;
- (e) repairing;
- (f) modifying;
- (g) altering, other than a minor alteration;
- (h) upgrading;
- (i) replacing.

Section 5.13 of the *OSSDS Technical Guidelines* outlines the requirements for cluster systems.

This policy clarifies that the cluster system requirements under Section 5.13 of the *OSSDS Technical Guidelines* shall apply only apply to cluster systems with **flow exceeding 1500 liters per day**.

V. POLICY DIRECTIVES

The cluster system requirements under the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSSDS) Technical Guidelines* (Section 5.13) shall only apply to cluster systems with **flow exceeding 1500 liters per day**.

The policy shall apply effective **January 14, 2015** and remain effective until the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations* and/or *Technical Guidelines* are revised to reflect this policy.

VI. ACCOUNTABILITY

NSE inspectors, engineers, and individuals designated as administrators under the *Environment Act* are responsible for applying this policy when processing on-site sewage system applications for approval.

VII. MONITORING

The On-site Services Program Coordinator should be contacted if issues (e.g. questionable sewage flow estimates, malfunctions, or others) arise that are specifically related to this policy.

VIII. INQUIRIES

Contact your District Manager or the On-site Services Program Coordinator for further information.

