

**Environmental Health Services Division**

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**MEMORANDUM**

March 9, 2001

TO: All Licensed Septic System Designers, Installers and Professional Engineers

FROM: Greg Bishop, Eastgate District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Irrigation lines

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**Irrigation Line**

As a point of clarification irrigation lines are considered water lines and therefore must meet the same setback criteria established in Title 13, On-site Sewage Code. This was previously established during an industry meeting and is referenced in a December 7, 1994 issues recap.

Typically irrigation lines are installed after the septic system and require a plumbing permit for that portion within the building footprint. Consequently many irrigation systems are installed that are technically in violation of Title 13. This does not come to Public Health's attention until a septic system repair is required, at which time excavations to repair the system may expose these irrigation lines.

Irrigation lines have been observed crossing over septic system drainfields, running over wastewater tanks, and running through and over sand filters and mounds. This presents four potential concerns: (1) Contamination of potable water supplies (Note: vacuum type back-flow preventors are insufficient protection to provide an adequate margin of safety when dealing with potential sewage contamination) (2) mechanical damage to the OSS during installation of the irrigation lines (3) hydraulic overload to the OSS from potential malfunctioning sprinkler heads or leaky and cracked pipes (4) interference with any future septic system repair.

1. Therefore in all future repair situations where irrigation lines cross over or run through system components, the repair proposal is to include appropriate mitigation measures or removal of these lines. Public Health will consider any repair proposal or repair installation unsatisfactory that does not address this issue.
2. Should irrigation lines be discovered during the installation the installer is to make the necessary alterations to bring the repair into compliance and notify one of the Senior Sanitarians.
3. If a repair installation does not comply with regulations regarding water and sewer lines the installation will be disapproved at the time of inspection by the Health Department.

**Scheduling pressure tests**

Due to program commitments we request that industry not schedule pressure tests on **Thursdays between 8:00-11:00 AM**. Staff will generally not be available during this time period.

## **Reminders to designers**

**Vicinity Maps-and Flagging Lots** - It is important to provide meaningful vicinity maps, making a copy of a map page and circling a point with an arrow is not sufficiently detailed to get us quickly and accurately to sites. We are asking you to provide the necessary details to quickly locate the lot to be reviewed, this may mean giving a detailed description of the route to the site. In addition the lot is to be prominently flagged with the designers and clients name at the access point of the lot. The trail to the soil log holes should also be flagged if not obvious.

**Orifices Spacing** - On sand based systems designs should indicate one orifice per every 6 square feet (see page 18 of the most current PD Guidelines).