



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

State Water Quality Division – Wastewater Program

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C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

MEMORANDUM

December 28, 2015

TO: Health District Environmental Health Directors
Health District Land Based Program Supervisors
DEQ Wastewater Program Staff – State Office
DEQ Regional Office Administrators
DEQ Regional Office Engineering Managers

FROM: Tyler R. Fortunati, R.E.H.S., On-Site Wastewater Coordinator

SUBJECT: Use of Multi-Compartment Septic Tanks as Individual Residence Septic Tank Effluent Pump Stations

This memorandum is to be used as a supplement to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)-issued memorandum *Septic Tank and Dosing Chamber Uses* dated June 2, 2014. The *Septic Tank and Dosing Chamber Uses* memorandum applies to all septic tanks and dosing chambers that are not installed as part of a collection system designed and reviewed under IDAPA 58.01.16.441, Wastewater Rules – Individual Residence Wastewater Pumping Stations. The purpose of this memorandum is to address combination septic tank/dosing chambers that are installed as Individual Residence Wastewater Pumping Stations that are permitted by a health district.

DEQ's wastewater rules (IDAPA 58.01.16.441) allow for the installation of individual residence septic tank effluent pump (STEP) stations as part of a collection system. Health districts only permit STEP tanks when the final wastewater disposal is through a subsurface sewage disposal system. When STEP tanks discharge to any other type of wastewater treatment and disposal system (i.e., lagoons, land application, NPDES permitted facility) the health districts do not permit and inspect the STEP tank installation.

For STEP tanks that are permitted and inspected by a health district the following requirements apply:

- When a STEP tank precedes a central secondary wastewater treatment system prior to discharge to a subsurface sewage disposal system any two-compartment septic tank approved by DEQ may be used as the STEP tank as long as it meets the minimum septic tank and dosing chamber volume. The septic tank compartment does not need to be hydraulically isolated from the dosing chamber compartment.
- If the STEP tank does not precede a central secondary wastewater treatment system prior to discharging to a subsurface sewage disposal system the septic tank compartment must be hydraulically isolated from the dosing chamber compartment and the two-compartment tank must be approved by DEQ. The STEP tank must meet the minimum septic tank and dosing chamber volume.