

**WHITFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION**

1407 BURLEYSON DRIVE•SUITE 1•DALTON, GA 30720
(706) 272-2005 PHONE•(706) 272-2442 FAX
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

To: Septic Contractors

From: Chad Mulkey, Environmental Health County Manager
Whitfield County Environmental Health Office

Date: May 22, 2006

Re: Whitfield County Septic Tank Inspections

As most of you aware, our office has undergone some changes over the last few weeks. This memo is to update and inform you of the changes that will affect you directly.

Some of these changes include:

- We have changed our policy of conducting inspections in the north end of the county in the mornings and south end in the afternoon. We will now conduct inspections in the south end in the mornings and north end in the afternoons. This change is a result of concerns expressed by you (the contractors) to better accommodate your schedules. While this change is now our policy, we will try to be flexible (if our workload allows) in cases of impending rain, etc.
- While not a new change, we will continue to issue permits for conventional gravel field lines unless the property owner states otherwise. If a permit is issued for gravel, and you want to use a different product, please call ahead of time and complete an amendment request form. This is not to force more pipe and gravel systems, and we are not in a kickback deal with Vulcan. This is simply to try and standardize our permitting process (at the request of the state) and to avoid showing favoritism to any other field line products. The pipe and gravel systems are the standard that all other products are compared to in order to determine the reduction that can be given for that specific product. (The calculation to determine the reduction is quite complicated, but if you really want to know, call our office.)
- This leads to the next (and arguably most complex) change. As of April 27, 2006, all of the reductions for any field line products other than conventional pipe and gravel have changed. This should not surprise anyone, since the District Office or State sent out a letter to inform every one of these changes. Please call our office if you are not sure of the new reductions or if the permit is only written for gravel to avoid any complications during our inspection.

There are several things that have not changed:

- **PLEASE CALL IN YOUR INSPECTIONS BEFORE 9:00 A.M.!** This has been our policy for at least 5 years, but we continue to get calls throughout the day for inspections that same day. Since we have made the change of the north end / south end inspections based on your concerns, please help us by calling in so we can better schedule our workload. Also, we understand that unforeseen circumstances may occur from time to time (mechanical problems, etc.), so please call our office if you will not be finished at the scheduled time so we can adjust our agendas.
- **YOU MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE PERMIT IN HAND BEFORE BEGINNING ANY INSTALLATION!** This will avoid any confusion and misunderstandings. Contrary to popular belief, we do not like to turn systems down or “give you a hard time” about them. It’s much easier to avoid problems before they become a problem. We do not mind your calls with any questions about permits, and in fact, we welcome them to help ensure that the system will be approved.
- We prefer that you be at the site for the inspection in case we have questions or notice needed changes. If you cannot be there, leave a call back number. Also, **please leave the lid off of the tank** so we can check the filter, and leave the lines open so they can be properly measured or counted.
- According to a memo from the State, on a residential lot where a pump system must be used, it is okay to pump to a distribution box and go with serial distribution (spillover system). This does not apply to commercial lots where the lines must be equal length. It may be necessary to utilize equal length lines in some residential applications due to high perc. rates or other circumstances, but it will be specified on the permit if this is the case.
- If any important information (tank size, line length, line depth, etc.) is not on the permit, call before you begin the installation. Some permits have gone out that do not have all of this information. This is another reason to have the permit in hand before beginning installation.

While not a complete list of all that may affect you, it should cover most of the major areas of concern. If you have any questions about these or any other items, please do not hesitate to call our office at 706-272-2005.