

**LARAMIE COUNTY
SMALL WASTEWATER
SYSTEMS REGULATIONS**

**LARAMIE COUNTY
WYOMING**

ADOPTED: November 15, 2016
EFFECTIVE January 1, 2017

CHAPTER 1

LARAMIE COUNTY SMALL WASTEWATER SYSTEM REGULATIONS

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LARAMIE COUNTY
SMALL WASTEWATER
SYSTEM REGULATIONS

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Section 1. Authority.

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act, W.S. 35-11-101 through W.S. 35-11-1207 and 35-1-301 through 35-1-309. Specifically, W.S. 35-11-301 stipulates that no person, except when permit authorized, shall: construct, install, modify, or operate any small wastewater facility. W.S. 35-11-304 stipulates that to the extent requested, authority to enforce and administer W.S. 35-11-301(a) (iii) shall be delegated to qualifying municipalities, water and sewer districts or counties.

Section 2. Applicability.

These regulations shall apply to all small wastewater systems as defined in Section 3 of these regulations.

Section 3. Definitions.

The following definitions supplement those definitions contained in Section 35-11-103 of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act.

(a) “Cease and Desist Order” means a written order posted at a construction site or delivered by Certified Mail, to stop work on the installation of a small wastewater system.

(b) “Groundwater” means subsurface water that fills available openings in rock or soil materials such that they may be considered water saturated under hydrostatic pressure.

(c) “Non-Hazardous Liquid Waste” means liquid or semi solid wastes that are not classified as hazardous wastes by WDEQ in Chapter II, which have the potential to cause disease or may tend to pollute without proper handling or disposal. These substances include human excreta, domestic sewage, septage, wastewater treatment sludge, and the contents of chemical toilets, privies, grease traps, and sand traps.

(d) “Non-Hazardous Liquid Waste Hauler” means a person engaged in and who holds himself out as a specialist in the cleaning and pumping of small wastewater systems and removal of the residues deposited in the operation thereof. Also referred to as "waste hauler" for the purposes of these regulations.

(e) “Permit” means written authorization issued by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department duly executed which authorizes the permittee to construct, install, or modify the system as set forth in this chapter.

(f) “Sludge” means any mixture or suspension of liquid and solid wastes having a total

suspended solids content greater than (10) percent by weight.

(g) “Small Wastewater System” means any sewerage disposal system or treatment works having simple hydrologic and engineering needs which is intended for wastes originating from a residential unit or commercial operation, that distributes 2,000 gallons or less of domestic sewage per day.

(h) “Systems Contractor” means a person engaged in and who holds himself out as a specialist in installation, renovation, and repair of small wastewater systems. For the purpose of this definition and of the system contractor licensing requirements: A person who installs more than (1) individual sewage disposal system in any twelve (12) month period shall be deemed to be engaged in, and/or if said person received compensation of any kind for his services, he shall be deemed to hold himself out as a specialist in the installation, renovation, and repair of small wastewater systems.

(i) “Wastewater Facilities” means sewerage systems, disposal systems and treatment works.

Section 4. Prohibitions.

No person shall, except when authorized by permit or license issued pursuant to the Act and these regulations:

(a) Construct, install, or modify any small wastewater system.

(b) Construct, install, or modify any system in non-compliance with the terms and conditions of an issued permit.

(c) Construct, install, or modify a system with a permit that has expired or has been suspended or revoked.

(d) Pump and/or clean a small wastewater system in non-compliance with Section 16.

Section 5. Permit Required; Control of Construction, Installation and Modification Permits; Responsibility on Issued Permits.

(a) Construction, installation, modification or operation of small wastewater systems shall be allowed only in accordance with these regulations, within the terms and conditions of permits issued pursuant to the provisions of these regulations and/or in conformance with all applicable laws, regulations and/or ordinances.

(b) No construction, installation or modification of a small wastewater system shall be allowed unless a permit to construct, install, or modify has been obtained from the Cheyenne - Laramie County Health Department.

(c) The issuance of a permit to construct or final inspection of the system does not constitute an implied or stated guarantee of the system, nor is the permittee relieved of its responsibility to properly plan, design, construct, operate and maintain the facility as described in the application and permit conditions and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and/or ordinances.

Section 6. Application Requirements.

The following procedures will be followed in applying for a permit:

(a) Any person who proposes to construct, install, or modify a system required to be permitted under Section 5 shall submit a written application on forms provided by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department.

(b) The application for a permit to construct, install, or modify must be accompanied by design data or plans, and other pertinent information covering the project, in the number specified, by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department.

(c) Design data shall include size of lot.

(i) At least five (5) acres of land shall be provided for a lot utilizing a private water supply and a small wastewater system, with the exception of lots platted and recorded prior to the adoption of the Laramie County Subdivision Regulations, June 5, 1979. Land subject to the foregoing exception consisting of less than one (1) acre including rights of way shall not be utilized for a small wastewater system. A specific variance from the Board of County Commissioners may allow for smaller lot sizes. In order to apply for a variance pursuant to Section 6(f) of these regulations for a lot less than one (1) acre, the applicant must present a statement certified by a licensed engineer that the proposed system will fulfill all criteria of the design standards of these ordinances and not present a danger of groundwater contamination.

(ii) At least two and one half (2 ½) acres of land shall be provided for a lot utilizing a public water supply and a small wastewater system, with the exception of lots platted prior to the adoption of the Laramie County Subdivision Regulations June 5, 1979. Land subject to the foregoing exception consisting of less than two and one half (2 ½) acres including rights of way shall not be utilized for a small wastewater system. A specific variance from the Board of County Commissioners may allow for smaller lot sizes.

(iii) At least two and one half (2 ½) acres including rights of way of land shall be provided for a lot utilizing a private water supply and a small wastewater system for land platted and/or legally split and recorded with the county clerks office between June 5, 1979 and February 5, 2002. A specific variance from the Board of County Commissioners may allow for smaller lot sizes for land platted and recorded and/or legally split and recorded between June 5, 1979 and February 5, 2002.

(iv) At least two and one half (2 ½) acres of land shall be provided for lots or parcels utilizing a private water supply and a small wastewater system which are located within a County approved subdivision which has utilized the open space design option in the Cheyenne-Laramie County Subdivision/Development Regulations or which are located in a county approved subdivision zoned PUD with an average gross lot density of five (5) acres or more. Land subject to the foregoing exception consisting of less than two and one half (2 ½) acres shall not be eligible for a small wastewater system. A specific variance from the Board of County Commissioners may allow for smaller lot sizes.”

(d) No permit, as provided for in these regulations, shall be issued prior to the receipt of proof from the Laramie County Planning Department that demonstrates compliance with the following:

(i) The Cheyenne and Laramie County Zoning Ordinance, 1998, as may be currently amended.

(ii) The Cheyenne and Laramie County Subdivision Regulations, 1979, as may be currently amended.

(iii) The design and construction standards for small wastewater currently incorporated in these regulations and as amended in future.

(iv) The resolution establishing procedures for assigning addresses and placement of addresses on structures within the unincorporated area of Laramie County, as may be currently amended. This provision shall not apply where the small wastewater permit is to be issued strictly for the purpose of modifying, repairing or replacing an existing system.

(e) All plans and specifications must conform to the minimum design standards adopted by the Board of Laramie County Commissioners.

(f) Criteria for Variances: The Board shall have the power to hear and decide on applications for a variance of the 5 acre minimum required above. The Board may impose any reasonable conditions or restrictions on any variance it decides to grant.

The Board of County Commissioners in granting a variance will consider all of the following criteria:

(i) Whether there are unusual physical circumstances or conditions, including, without limitation, irregularity, narrowness or shallowness of the lot, or exceptional topographical or other physical conditions peculiar to the affected property;

(ii) Whether the unusual physical circumstances or conditions do not exist throughout

the neighborhood, zoning district or area in which the property is located;

(iii) That because of the unusual physical circumstances or conditions the property cannot reasonably be developed in a manner substantially equivalent to the other landowners in the neighborhood;

(iv) Whether, the unusual physical circumstances, conditions or size of the lot are not the result of actions of the applicant taken after the adoption of these regulations; and

(v) The Board of County Commissioner may grant a variance, only if all the following criteria are met:

(A) In the opinion of the City of Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department or any other relevant agency of the county, state or federal government granting of the variance would not harm the public health, safety and welfare including, but not limited to, negative impacts on ground water;

(B) Would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the lot is located;

(C) Would not substantially or permanently impair the reasonable use and enjoyment or development of adjacent property; and

(D) Would be the minimum variance that would afford relief and would be the least modification of the applicable provisions of these regulations.

(E) That the system proposed would comply with any design criteria designated by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department or any other relevant agency.

(g) The granting of a variance by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to this subsection does not guarantee the issuance of a permit by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department for the construction, installation, repair, alteration or modification of a small wastewater treatment system. The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department retains full discretion to deny or grant any permit in connection with a small wastewater treatment system.

Section 7. Application Processing Procedures.

All permit applications received will be processed in the following manner:

(a) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department shall review each application and take final action within sixty (60) days from the date the application is received.

(b) Incomplete applications will be processed in the following manner:

(i) Additional information shall be requested in detail or the application may be returned to the applicant. Incomplete permit applications will result in permit denial.

(ii) If an applicant is denied because of incompleteness necessitating a request for additional information, the applicant shall have a maximum of six (6) months to comply with the request. If the applicant fails to provide the requested information within that period, the entire incomplete application shall be returned.

(iii) Resubmittal of information by an applicant on an incomplete application will be processed as described in this section.

(c) All plans and specifications must meet or exceed minimum design standards and these regulations.

(d) Each application must be submitted with all supporting data necessary for review. Processing of the application with respect to recommendations or required changes will be done in accordance with the provisions of applicable statutes, rules and regulations of the Board of Laramie County Commissioners.

(e) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of the final action taken on the application. If the conditions of the permit are different from the proposed application submitted by the applicant for review, the notification shall include reasons for the changes made.

(f) If, upon review of an application, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department determines that a permit is not required, the Department shall notify the applicant of this determination in writing. Such notification shall constitute final action on the application.

(g) If, upon review of an application, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department determines that a permit should not be granted, the Department shall notify the applicant in writing of the permit denial and state the reasons for denial.

(h) If the applicant is dissatisfied with the conditions of denial of any permit issued by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department, he may request a hearing in accordance with Section 11.

Section 8. Construction and Operation in Compliance with Issued Permit and Law.

The permittee shall:

(a) Conduct all construction, installation, modification or operation of any system permitted under these regulations consistent with the terms and conditions of the permit and applicable laws, regulations and/or ordinances. Unauthorized changes, deviations or modifications,

including those necessary to correct, modify or replace a failing or failed system, will be a violation of the permit, these regulations and any applicable law. A new application or amended application must be filled with Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department to obtain modification of a permit. No modification shall be implemented until a new or modified permit has been issued or a waiver given pursuant to subsection b.

(b) Request in writing authorization to utilize materials and/or procedures different from those specified in the terms of the issued permit. Such requests shall be directed to the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department. A waiver may be granted if materials and/or procedures specified in the permit cannot be obtained or accomplished and alternative materials and procedures meet minimum standards. In order to prevent undue delay during construction, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may grant a waiver orally, upon oral request, provided this request is followed by a written request in five (5) days.

(c) Notify the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department for inspection of the small wastewater system at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to covering the system. A authorized representative of the department shall inspect the installation before it is covered with earth and/or used.

(d) Conduct the operation in accordance with statements, representations, and procedures presented in the complete application and supporting documents, as accepted and authorized by the department.

(e) See Section (13.) of these regulations for further guidance as to modification, operation, installation, construction or replacement in the event a small wastewater system fails or is failing or its operation is in violation of any applicable ordinance, regulation, statute or law, whether local, state or federal.

Section 9. Duration and Termination of Permits; Transfer of Permits.

(a) The duration of construction, installation or modification permits will be variable, but shall not exceed five (5) years from the date of issuance. The expiration date will be recorded on each permit issued. Those permits issued without a specified expiration date will be in force no more than five (5) years from date of issuance.

(b) Small wastewater system permits shall only be issued to the official applicant of record, for only the type of construction of record. The official applicant of record must be the owner of the property or have power of attorney. Small wastewater system permits shall be automatically terminated:

(i) At the time of sale or exchange of the property.

(ii) When construction is completed. However, conditions included in the permit will

remain in effect throughout the life of the system.

(iii) Upon issuance of a new, renewed or modified permit.

(iv) Upon written request of the permittee.

Section 10. Renewal of a Permit.

A permit may be renewed where construction has not been started by filing an affidavit with the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department stating there will not be any changes in the plans for construction, installation, or modification of a permitted system prior to the expiration date of the permit.

Section 11. Denial of a Permit.

(a) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may deny a permit for any of the following reasons:

(i) The application is incomplete or does not meet applicable minimum design and construction standards as specified by minimum design standards.

(ii) The project, if constructed, will cause violation of applicable state surface or groundwater standards.

(iii) The project does not comply with applicable state and local water quality management plans as specified in Section 15 of this chapter.

(iv) Other justifiable reasons.

(b) If the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department proposes to deny issuance of a permit, the applicant shall be notified by Registered or Certified Mail of the intent to deny and the reason for denial.

(c) In the case of denial of a permit by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department, the applicant if he so desires, may request a hearing before the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners. A request for a hearing shall be made in writing, within thirty (30) days of receipt of notification of the denial to the Board and shall state the grounds for the request. Any hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the regulations of the Board.

Section 12. Modification of a Permit.

Either before construction is completed upon a permitted system, or during the review of a proposed system application, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may, for good cause, modify a construction permit.

(a) When receiving an application or before construction on a system is completed, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may modify a permit due to the following reasons:

(i) Existing, unknown or changing site conditions which would prevent construction and resultant operation from complying with the Laramie County Regulations; or

(ii) Receipt of additional information; or

(iii) Incomplete application on review items where the applicant agrees with the modification; or

(iv) Review items not in compliance with minimum standards where the applicant agrees with the modification; or

(v) Any other reason necessary to effectuate applicable statutes, standards or regulations.

(b) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department shall notify the permittee by Registered or Certified Mail of intent to modify the permit.

(c) Such notification shall include the proposed modification and the reasons for modification and time frame to have modifications constructed, installed or operational. Modification requirements shall be implemented before construction, installation, or modification of a permit is completed.

(d) The modification shall become final within twenty (20) days from the date of receipt of such notice unless within that time the permittee requests a hearing before the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners. Such request for hearing shall be made in writing to the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners and shall state the grounds for the request. Any hearing held shall be conducted pursuant to the regulations of the Board.

(e) A copy of the modified permit shall be forwarded to the permittee as soon as the modification becomes effective.

Section 13 Small Wastewater Systems: Failure and/or Operation in Violation of Law.

(a) It shall be a violation of these regulations and any other applicable ordinance, regulation,

statute or law, local, state or federal, to operate a failed or failing small wastewater system or to operate a small wastewater system in any manner as to endanger life, health, safety and /or property of the public.

(b) It is unlawful to repair, modify, replace or construct a failed or failing small wastewater system without first obtaining a small wastewater system permit detailing the necessary repairs, modifications, replacement or construction needed.

(c) This section and these regulations shall apply to all small wastewater systems, permitted or unpermitted.

(d) No permit may be issued for any system which is in conflict with an approved water quality management plan prepared pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act as amended and/or a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Laramie County Board of Commissioners and the City of Cheyenne.

(e) These regulations shall be applied in the discretion of the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department, to the extent permitted by existing law and/or site conditions for any repair, modification, replacement or construction necessitated by the failure of an existing small wastewater system. To preclude the closure of an existing small wastewater system, the Health Officer, in his discretion, may waive compliance with specific requirements of these rules and regulations, to the extent permitted under law, if it can be demonstrated that the repairs, modifications, replacement or construction on the system will not have an adverse impact on the life, health, safety and/or property of the public.

(f) The owner(s) of any small wastewater system determined to have failed or be failing by the Health Officer shall be notified in writing by the Health Officer in compliance with the Laramie County Nuisance Abatement ordinances or any other applicable law, ordinance or statute. If remedial measures are available to the owner, the notice will inform said owner of the time period in which available remedies to the failing system must be completed. If it can be demonstrated that the failing small wastewater system will not have an adverse impact on the life, health, safety and/or property of the public, in the sole discretion of the Health Officer and in accord with applicable law, the owner(s) may submit a schedule of compliance for review and approval by the Health Officer. All failing systems shall be fully repaired and in compliance with applicable law within six (6) months from notification. Any failure to maintain progress on remedies outlined in an approved compliance schedule shall constitute a violation of these regulations. Nothing in this section serves to abrogate, modify or eliminate any remedy allowed under law which may be applicable to the situation giving rise to the notice.

Section 14. Suspension or Revocation of a Permit.

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may suspend or revoke a permit before construction, installation or modification of a system is completed, for the reasons set forth below, in item b.

(a) Before a permit may be suspended or revoked, the permittee shall be given an opportunity to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of the permit.

(b) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department shall notify the permittee by Registered or Certified Mail of its intent to suspend or revoke the permit in the event that it becomes necessary due to:

(i) non-compliance with the terms of the permit; or

(ii) unapproved modifications in design or construction; or

(iii) false information submitted in the application; or

(iv) changing site conditions which would result in violations of applicable regulations; or

(v) non-compliance with requirements of Section 14; or

(vi) any other reason necessary to effectuate applicable statutes, standards or regulations.

(c) The notification shall include the reasons for suspension or revocation.

(d) The suspension or revocation shall become final twenty (20) days from the date of receipt of such notice unless within that time the permittee requests a hearing before the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners. Such a request for hearing shall be made in writing to the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners and shall state the grounds for the request. Any hearing held shall be conducted pursuant to the regulations of the Board.

Section 15. Compliance With State and Local Water Quality Management Plans.

No permit may be issued for any system which is in conflict with an approved water quality management plan prepared the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended and/or any memorandum of agreement signed by the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Cheyenne.

Section 16. Regulations of Systems Contractors.

(a) No person except as in (b), shall install, engage in the installation of, or repair a small wastewater system unless he holds a valid Systems Contractor License. Employees of a validly licensed Systems Contractor shall not be required to be licensed. Licenses shall expire on December 31 of each year and shall be renewed within thirty (30) days prior thereto.

(b) Any landowner of record may install a small wastewater system for his own use without the necessity of obtaining a license, provided however, such landowner shall first obtain a permit from the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department upon a proper showing to the department of competency to complete the said work in accordance with these regulations, and provided further said landowner's installation shall be subject to inspection by the Cheyenne - Laramie County Health Department as herein provided and otherwise be completed in accordance with these regulations.

(c) Standard of performance required of holders of Systems Contractor Licenses:

(i) Applications for Systems Contractors Licenses or renewals shall be made upon forms supplied by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department.

(ii) Prior to the issuance or renewal of a license the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may require the applicant to demonstrate adequate knowledge of these regulations.

(iii) A licensing and renewal fee shall be collected by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department as set by the Board of Health.

(iv) Installation, renovation or repair of any small wastewater system shall be in compliance with these regulations and with the conditions set out in the installation permit.

(v) Notice of a requested inspection shall be given by the license holder not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the inspection is to be made.

(vi) A license holder shall have in his possession a copy of the installation permit at the time of final inspection so that final approval may be endorsed upon it.

(d) Suspension and/or Revocation of a Systems Contractor License:

(i) A contractor's license may be suspended or revoked for failure to comply with these regulations or any applicable state, local or federal law or regulation or for other good cause shown.

(A) The Division of Environmental Health (Division) may suspend a license, or suspend a license pending revocation, for up to 120 days after giving written notice as described in Section 16d(2). The license holder shall be given not less than ten (10) days written notice prior to the commencement of the suspension and not less than fifteen (15) prior to the commencement of a revocation.

(B) Final revocation of a license shall take place only after a hearing, if requested by the license holder, before the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners.

The license holder may request a hearing on the Division's revocation of a license by requesting a hearing, in writing, within fifteen days of the receipt of the Division's notice or Revocation. Failure to properly request such a hearing shall result in the revocation of said license at the expiration of the fifteen day period. The license holder shall be given not less than ten (10) days notice of the date of the hearing and may be represented at the hearing by counsel. Any hearing will be conducted in conformance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

(C) A license holder may request a hearing to contest the suspension of a license before the Laramie County Board of Commissioners. Said hearing must be requested within ten (10) days of receipt of notice of said suspension from the Division. Failure to properly request such a hearing shall result in the suspension of said license under the terms imposed by the Division at the expiration of the 10 day period. Any hearing will be conducted in conformance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

(ii) Written notice of suspension or revocation, particularizing the violations shall be served upon the holder of the Systems Contractor License. Service of notice as required in this section shall be provided by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, deliverable to addressee only.

(iii) A systems contractor whose license has been revoked may not be considered for re-licensing for at least one year following the revocation date.

(e) The Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department shall, from time to time, set qualification standards for licensed Systems Contractors.

Section 17. Regulations of Non-Hazardous Liquid Waste Haulers:

(a) No person shall engage in the cleaning of a small wastewater system or the transportation of sewage to a disposal site unless he holds a valid Waste Haulers License from the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department. Employees of a validly licensed Waste Hauler shall not be required to be licensed. Licenses shall expire on December 31 of each year and shall be renewed within thirty (30) days prior thereto. An annual inspection of the waste haulers vehicles shall be conducted prior to license renewal.

(i) The company name and license number shall be posted on both sides of the vehicle cab in letters at a minimum of six (6) inches high.

(ii) A licensing and renewal fee shall be collected by the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department as set by the Board of Health.

(iii) Proof of liability insurance shall be required prior to the issuance and renewal of a license.

(iv) Any person engaging in the cleaning of a small waste water system or in the transportation of sewage to a disposal site without a license issued pursuant to these regulations shall be in violation of these regulations and subject to penalties or consequences as outlined in Section 18 of these regulations in addition to any other sanction available at law.

(b) Standard of Performance for Waste Haulers:

(i) A license holder, when cleaning a small wastewater system vessel shall remove the liquid, sludge and scum, leaving no more than three (3) inches depth of waste in a non-back flowing small wastewater system vessel. In back flowing types of systems cleaning shall be effective in reducing solids and scum to the point of a near new system.

(ii) A license holder shall maintain his equipment so as to insure that no spillage of waste will occur during transportation, storage, parking or maintenance, and that his employees are not subjected to undue health hazards.

(iii) A license holder shall dispose of the collected non-hazardous liquid waste only at a site approved by the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

(iv) Prior to the issuance of, or renewal of a license, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department may require the applicant to demonstrate adequate knowledge of these regulations.

(c) Suspension or revocation of a Waste Hauler License The procedure as described in Section 16 (d) shall be followed for the suspension or revocation of a license.

Section 18. Enforcement; Penalties.

(a) If the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department has reason to believe that a person is violating any provision of these regulations or permit issued pursuant hereto or any applicable law, regulation, ordinance or statute or creating a situation with a small wastewater system which endangers the life, safety, health and/or property of the public, an investigation shall be made. Authorized personnel of Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department are hereby authorized to enter onto and upon the property of another who is believed to be in violation for purposes of such an investigation. He shall have the authority to issue a cease and desist order, pursuant to these regulations, W.S. § 35-11-301(a)(iii), (v) or any other applicable authority, if a violation of these regulations is found to exist.

(b) These regulations are enforceable by all appropriate legal remedies including but not limited to injunctive relief, a writ of mandamus, and abatement pursuant to the Laramie County Nuisance Regulations. Nothing in this section or in these regulations shall be deemed to be the exclusive authority governing small wastewater systems. This section and these regulations shall

be in addition to the authority provided in any lawful ordinance, statute, regulation or law, state, local or federal.

(c) In addition to penalties provided in W.S. § 35-10-102, any person who violates any provision of these regulations is liable for a penalty not to exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each day during which the violation continues, which may be recovered in a civil action, together with any costs or damages which may be assessed by the court.

(d) In addition to any penalties available at law, it is a violation of these regulations to make any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report or plan or other document filed or required to be obtained or filed under these regulations. A citation for a violation of these regulations may be issued to any person in violation of this provision and a fine of not more than seven hundred and fifty (\$750.00) dollars shall be imposed upon conviction.

(e) Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to abridge, limit, impair, create, enlarge or otherwise affect substantively or procedurally the right of any person to damages or other relief on account of injury to persons or property and to maintain any action other appropriate proceeding therefor.

Section 19. General Legal Section

(a) In case of a conflict between these regulations, or any part of these regulations and any part of any existing or future ordinance, statute, law, regulation or code, local, state or federal, the more restrictive in all cases shall apply.

(b) Should any section or provision of these regulations be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the declaration shall not affect the validity of the regulations as a whole or any part thereof, which is not declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

CHAPTER 2

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

STANDARDS FOR

SMALL WASTEWATER

REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 2

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR SEPTIC TANKS, SOIL ABSORPTION SYSTEMS, AND OTHER SMALL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

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Section 1. Authority.

This rule is promulgated pursuant to Wyoming Statutes (W.S.) 35-11-101 through 35-11-1904, specifically 35-11-302(a)(iii).

Section 2. Objective.

This Chapter contains the minimum standards for the design and construction of small wastewater systems that are defined by W.S. 35-11-103(c)(ix). In addition, this Chapter contains the minimum standards for the design and construction of Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class V facilities 5C1-5C3, 5C6, 5D1, 5E1, 5E3-5E5 as defined in Chapter 27, Appendices C and D.

The following situations will require the application package to be sealed, signed, and dated by a professional engineer (PE): non-domestic wastewater from commercial and industrial facilities, high strength wastewater, individual permits to construct, or standard soil absorption systems with a soil percolation rate that is either less than 5 minutes per inch (mpi) or more than 60 minutes per inch (mpi).

These standards pertain to permits required pursuant to Chapters 3 and 25, Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations. The installation of all components of a small wastewater system require a permit to construct. Permits to construct are specified throughout this chapter as individual permits to construct, described in Chapter 3, Section 6 Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations.

Section 3. Timing of Compliance with these Regulations.

Any permit-to-construct issued for facilities subject to this chapter prior to the effective date of these regulations, and any facility authorized under the Division's "Permit to Construct, Install, Modify or Operate a Small Wastewater Facility" shall remain covered under those permits. New construction or modification of existing facilities following the effective date of this regulation must obtain authorization under a new permit.

Section 4. Definitions

(a) "100 year floodplain" means a tract of land throughout a watershed that has a one- in-one hundred chance or occurrence of flooding in any given year or a return period of once every 100 years , as determined by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or a local planning and development authority.

(b) "Absorption surface" means the interface where treated effluent infiltrates into native or fill soil.

- (c) “Bed” means a soil treatment and dispersal system where the width is greater than three (3) feet.
- (d) “Bedrock” means geological layers, of which greater than fifty percent (50%) by volume consist of unweathered in-place consolidated rock or rock fragments. Bedrock also means weathered in-place rock that cannot be hand augered or penetrated with a knife blade.
- (e) “Bedroom” means any room that is or may be used for sleeping.
- (f) “Blackwater” means water containing fecal matter and/or urine.
- (g) “Five day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5)” means a measurement of the dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter during a five (5) day period.
- (h) “Building sewer” means the pipe that carries wastewater from the building.
- (i) “Chamber” means a domed open bottom structure that is used in lieu of perforated distribution pipe and gravel media.
- (j) “Delegated small wastewater program” means a local governmental entity, delegated by the Administrator, with the authority to administer the provisions of W.S. 35-11-301(a) (iii) for small wastewater systems pursuant to the provisions of W.S. 35-11-304.
- (k) “Direct human consumption food crops” are crops consumed directly by humans. These include but are not limited to fruits, vegetables, and grains grown for human consumption.
- (l) “Domestic wastewater” means a combination of the liquid or water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and other establishments arising from normal living activities.
- (m) “Domestic septage” means liquid or solid material removed from a waste treatment vessel that has received only wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and other establishments arising from normal living activities.
- (n) “Dosing tank” means a tank equipped with an automatic siphon or pump designed to discharge effluent on an intermittent basis.
- (o) “Effluent” means liquid flowing out of a septic tank, other treatment vessel, or system.
- (p) “Effluent filter” means a removable, cleanable device inserted into the outlet piping of a septic tank or other treatment vessel designed to trap solids that would

otherwise be transported to the soil absorption system or other downstream treatment components.

(q) “Evapotranspiration” means the combined loss of water from soil by evaporation from the soil or water surface and by transpiration from plants.

(r) “Greywater” means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge; that is unaffected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes; and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. “Greywater” includes but is not limited to wastewater from bathtubs, showers, washbasins, clothes washing machines (unless soiled diapers are serviced), laundry tubs, and kitchen sinks.

(s) “Grease interceptor” means a device designed to separate fats, oils, and grease from wastewater.

(t) “Groundwater” means subsurface water that fills available openings in rock or soil materials such that they may be considered water saturated under hydrostatic pressure.

(u) “High groundwater” means seasonally or periodically elevated levels of groundwater.

(v) “High strength wastewater” means a wastewater stream with a BOD5 higher than 200 mg/L.

(w) “Holding tank” means a watertight receptacle designed to receive and store wastewater.

(x) “Manifold” means a non-perforated pipe that distributes effluent to individual distribution pipes.

(y) “Mound system” means an onsite wastewater system where any part of the absorption surface is above the elevation of the existing site grade and the absorption surface is contained in a mounded fill body above the grade.

(z) “Mulch basin” means an excavated area that has been refilled with a highly permeable media, organic and inorganic materials intended to distribute greywater to irrigate vegetation.

(aa) “Pathogens” are disease-causing organisms. These include, but are not limited to certain bacteria, protozoa, viruses, and viable helminth ova.

(bb) “Percolation rate” means the time expressed in minutes per inch required for water to seep into saturated soil at a constant rate.

(cc) “Pipe invert” means the bottom of the internal surface of the pipe.

(dd) “Percolation test” means the method used to measure the percolation rate of water into soil as described in Appendix A.

(ee) “Pressure distribution” means a network of pipes in which effluent is forced through orifices under pressure.

(ff) “Restrictive layer” means a nearly continuous layer that has one or more physical or chemical properties that significantly impede the movement of water and air through the soil or that restrict roots or otherwise provide unfavorable root conditions. Examples are bedrock, cemented layers, and dense layers.

(gg) “Septage” means liquid or solid material removed from a waste treatment vessel that has received wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and other establishments.

(hh) “Septic tank” means a watertight tank designed and constructed to receive and treat raw wastewater.

(ii) “Serial distribution” means a group of trenches arranged so that the total effective absorption area of one trench is used before liquid flows into the next trench.

(jj) “Service provider” means a person authorized and trained by a system manufacturer or their vendor to operate and maintain any proprietary system.

(kk) “Soil absorption system” means a shallow, covered, excavation surface, or mound made in unsaturated soil into which wastewater effluent from the septic tank is discharged through distribution piping for application onto absorption surfaces through porous media or manufactured components.

(ll) “Trench” means an absorption surface with a width of three (3) feet or less.

Section 5. Design Flows.

The volume of wastewater shall be determined by one of the following:

- (a) Tables 1 and 2 provided in this section.
- (b) Metered water supply data from the facility.
- (c) Metered water supply data from another facility where similar water demands have been demonstrated.

Table 1. Residential Design Flow Rates per Bedroom (gallons per day, gpd)¹

1 bedroom	150
2 bedrooms	280
3 bedrooms	390
4 bedrooms	470
5 bedrooms	550
6 bedrooms	630

¹An unfinished basement is considered two (2) additional bedrooms.

²The design flow shall be increased by eighty (80) gpd for each additional bedroom over six (6).

Table 2. Non-Residential Wastewater Design Flow Rates¹

Facility	Unit	Flow (gallons/unit/day)
Airports	person	4
Apartment	bedroom	120
Automobile Service Station	vehicle served	10
Bars	seat	20
Bathhouses and swimming pools	person	10
Campgrounds (w/ toilets only)	person	25
Campgrounds (w/shower facility)	person	45
Church	person	4
Country Club	member	25
Day School, Office Building, Retail Store, Warehouse (no showers)	person	15
Hospital	bed	250
Industrial Building (sanitary waste only)	employee	20
Laundry (self-service)	machine	450
Mobile Home	bedroom	see table 1
Motel, Hotel, Resort	bedroom	140
Recreational Vehicle	each	100
Rest Home, Care Facility, Boarding School	bed	100
Restaurant	meal	10
Restaurant (kitchen waste only)	meal	6
Theater	seat	3

¹ Values shown in the above table are the typical flow rates from *Wastewater Engineering Treatment and Reuse*, Metcalf and Eddy, 2003.

Section 6. Systems Not Specifically Covered by This Rule.

This section is provided to encourage new technology and equipment and provide a process for evaluating and permitting designs that deviate from this rule. The proposed construction of facilities and processes not in compliance with this rule may be permitted provided that the facility, when constructed and operated, meets the objective of these rules.

(a) Each application for a permit to construct shall include an engineering design report, detailed construction plans, and technical specifications for all piping, tanks, and equipment. All of the documents shall have a suitable title showing the owner's name and the Wyoming registration number, seal, and signature of the engineer.

(b) Each application for a permit to construct will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using the best available technology. The application shall include at least one of the following:

(i) Data obtained from a full scale, comparable installation that demonstrates the acceptability of the design.

(ii) Data obtained from a pilot plant operated under the design condition for a sufficient length of time to demonstrate the acceptability of the design.

(iii) Data obtained from the theoretical evaluation of the design that demonstrates a reasonable probability the facility will meet the design objectives.

(iv) An evaluation of the flexibility of making corrective changes to the constructed facility in the event it does not function as planned.

(c) If an applicant wishes to construct a pilot plant to provide data necessary to show the design will meet the purpose of the act, a permit to construct must be obtained.

Section 7. Site Suitability.

(a) Small wastewater systems must be located where the surface drainage is sufficient to allow proper operation of the small wastewater system. Avoid depressions and bases of slopes and areas in the path of runoff from roofs, patios, driveways, or other paved areas unless surface drainage is provided. Small wastewater systems shall not be located beneath buildings, parking lots, roadways, driveways, irrigated landscaping, or compacted areas.

(b) The site must include area for both the proposed soil absorption system and a future replacement soil absorption system. Both the proposed and replacement soil absorption systems shall be sized to receive one-hundred (100%) percent of the wastewater flow. If a trench system is used, the replacement soil absorption system may be located

between the trenches of the proposed soil absorption system if there is at least nine (9) feet of spacing between trench sidewalls.

(c) For standard soil absorption systems, effective suitable soil depth shall extend at least four (4) feet below the bottom of the soil absorption system to any restrictive layer, fractured rock, or highly permeable material.

(d) The depth to high groundwater shall be at least four (4) feet below the bottom of the absorption surface for all treatment systems except pressure distribution. For pressure distribution systems, the depth to high groundwater shall be at least three (3) feet below the bottom of the absorption surface if the percolation rate of the soil is five (5) minutes per inch or greater (5-60 mpi).

(e) Slope

(i) The maximum permissible slope on which an absorption system shall be 15% or less.

(ii) Serial distribution, with the use of drop boxes or approved fittings, is the preferred installation method for sloping terrain. The bottom of individual trenches shall be level and the trenches shall be constructed to follow the contours of the land.

(iii) The placement of multiple trenches, with each subsequent trench down slope of the previous trench shall be avoided when the addition of effluent to the soil absorption system trenches may lead to either an unstable slope or seepage down slope.

(iv) All absorption surfaces must be located at least 15 horizontal feet from the top of any break in slope that exceeds the maximum slope allowed.

(f) Soil Exploration Pit and Percolation Tests

(i) Delegated small wastewater programs shall require a percolation test in addition to the soil exploration pit.

(ii) A minimum of one soil exploration pit within the proposed soil absorption system location shall be excavated to a minimum depth of ten (10) feet to evaluate the subsurface conditions.

(iii) The percolation test shall be performed in accordance with Appendix A of this chapter. An evaluation of the soil texture, in the proposed soil absorption system location, by a person experienced in soils classification, may be used as an additional tool to confirm the percolation rate.

(g) Minimum horizontal setback distances (in feet) are as follows in Table 3:

Table 3. Minimum Horizontal Setbacks for Domestic Wastewater in Feet^{1, 2}

From	To Septic Tank Or Equivalent	To Absorption System
Wells (includes neighboring wells)	50	100
Public Water Supply Well	100	200 ²
Property Lines	50 ³	50 ³
Foundation Wall (w/o drains)	5	10
Foundation Wall (with drains)	5	25
Potable Water Pipes	25	25
Septic Tank	N/A	10
Surface Water, Spring (including seasonal and intermittent)	50	50
Cisterns	25	25
Water Features	5	10

¹ For disposal of non-domestic wastewater, the setback distance shall be determined by a hydrogeological study in accordance with Section 17(b) of Chapter 3 Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Rules, but shall not be less than the distances shown in Table 3.

² Small wastewater systems that discharge to the same aquifer that supplies a public water supply well and are located within Zone 1 or 2 (Attenuation) of the public water supply well, as determined by *Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Assessment Project (2004)* or as established in Section 2 of the [Wyoming Wellhead Protection Guidance Document \(1997\)](#), shall provide additional treatment. These systems will be required to obtain an individual permit to construct and will require that a PE sign, stamp, and date the application, as stated in Section 2 of this chapter. The additional treatment shall be in accordance with Chapter 3 Section 2(b)(ii) Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Rules. The treatment system shall be designed to reduce the nitrates to less than 10 mg/L of NO₃⁻ as N and provide 4-log removal of pathogens before the discharge leaves the property boundary of each small wastewater system.

³ Lots split and recorded and/or subdivided prior to February 2, 2000 shall maintain a property line setback of 10'

Section 8. Soil Absorption System Sizing.

(a) The total infiltration surface area of a soil absorption system shall be calculated by dividing the design flow rates (gpd) from Table 1 or Table 2 by the loading rate (gpd/ft²) found in Table 4.

Table 4. Rates of Wastewater Application for Soil Absorption System Areas

Percolation Rate (mpi)	Loading Rate (gpd/ft ²)	Percolation Rate (mpi)	Loading Rate (gpd/ft ²)
5	0.80	21	0.45
6	0.75	22	0.44
7	0.71	23-24	0.43
8	0.68	25	0.42
9	0.65	26-27	0.41
10	0.62	28-29	0.40
11	0.60	30-31	0.39
12	0.58	32-33	0.38
13	0.56	34-35	0.37
14	0.54	36-37	0.36
15	0.52	38-40	0.35
16	0.50	41-43	0.34
17	0.49	44-46	0.33
18	0.48	47-50	0.32
19	0.47	51-55	0.31
20	0.46	56-60	0.30

(b) The total infiltration area shall be defined as follows:

(i) For standard trenches the total infiltration area shall be calculated based on the following formula:

$$A = L(W + 2S)$$

A = Total infiltration area

L = Total length of trench

W = Bottom width

S = Sidewall height of 12 inches or less

(A) The sidewall height is the depth below the flowline of the pipe to the bottom of the trench.

(B) The maximum credit for sidewall height shall not exceed twelve (12) inches even if the actual sidewall height exceeds twelve inches.

(C) A minimum of 150' of trench length shall be installed.

(ii) For chamber trenches, the total infiltration area shall be calculated based on the following formula:

$$A = L(W + 2S)$$

A = Total infiltration area

L = Total length of trench

W = Actual bottom width

S = Sidewall height of 12 inches or less

(A) The maximum credit for sidewall height shall not exceed twelve (12) inches even if the actual sidewall height exceeds twelve (12) inches.

(B) The sidewall height is the height of the slotted sidewall of the chamber or depth below the flow line of the inlet pipe, whichever is less.

(C) The total length of the trench is the number of chambers in a row multiplied by the length of one piece of chamber.

(D) A minimum of 150' of trench length shall be installed.

(iii) For standard bed systems, the total infiltration area shall be calculated based on the following formula:

$$A = LW$$

A = Total infiltration area

L = Total length of bed

W = Width of the bed

(A) The sidewall credit shall not be used in calculating the total infiltration area for a bed system.

(iv) For chamber bed systems, the total infiltration area shall be calculated based on the following formula:

$$A = L(W \times R)$$

A = Total infiltration area

L = Total length of bed

W = Actual bottom width of the chamber

R = Number of chamber rows (Multiply effective bottom width of chamber by number of chamber rows to get effective bottom width of bed.)

(A) The total length is the number of chambers in a row multiplied by the length of one piece of chamber.

(c) Coarse sand or soils having a percolation rate less than one (1) minute per inch (mpi) are unsuitable for subsurface effluent disposal. These soils may be used if a one (1) foot layer of fine sand or loamy sand is placed below the constructed soil absorption system. The soil absorption system shall be sized based on the percolation rate of the fill material.

Section 9. Building Sewer Pipes.

All building sewers shall be installed in accordance with the 2015 or most current International Plumbing Code (IPC). In the absence of a locally approved plumbing code, and in addition to the IPC, the building sewer shall comply with the following:

(a) Suitable building sewer pipe materials are polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or acrylonitrile– butadiene-styrene (ABS). The septic tank inlet and outlet pipes shall be schedule 40 PVC or ABS pipe and shall span the excavations for the septic tank and/or dosing chamber. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D-3034 Standard Dimension Ratio (SDR) 35 plastic pipe may be used if the void at the tank's side is filled with material that is granular, clean, and compacted.

(b) Building sewer pipes shall be sized to handle the peak hourly flow from the building and shall not be smaller than four (4) inches in diameter. When two different sizes or types of sewer pipes are to be connected, a proper type of fitting or conversion adapter shall be used.

(c) Sewer pipe shall not decrease in size flowing downstream.

(d) Building sewer pipes shall be laid at a standard slope of 1/4 inch per foot, and shall not be flatter than 1/8 inch per foot.

(e) Cleanouts shall be provided between the structure and the tank, at branch connections, every change in alignment, and at least every 100 feet in straight runs.

(f) All sewer piping shall be laid on a firm bed throughout its entire length. It shall be protected from damage due to rocks, hard lumps of soil, debris, and the like.

(g) Special care shall be used to prevent lateral movement or deformation during backfill. The backfill material shall be compacted to a density at least equivalent to the trench walls. Backfill over the pipe shall be of sufficient depth to protect the pipe from expected traffic loads and the wastewater from freezing.

Section 10. Septic Tanks and Other Treatment Tanks.

(a) Septic Tanks

(i) Septic tanks shall be fabricated or constructed of concrete, thermoplastic or an approved material. Tanks shall be watertight and fabricated to constitute an individual structure, and shall be designed and constructed to withstand anticipated loads. As part of the application review process, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division (DEQ/WQD) or the delegated small wastewater program shall review the design of prefabricated septic tanks for compliance with applicable construction standards. Tanks not on approved list will require review and approval of a Wyoming Professional Engineer. Thermoplastic tanks shall be durable heavy duty and only used with prior written approval from the division and where the use of concrete is not appropriate or available. To install thermoplastic tanks the installer shall be certified by the tank manufacturer prior to installation.

(ii) The septic tank shall be placed on a level grade and a firm bedding to prevent settling. Where rock or other undesirable protruding obstructions are encountered, the opening for the septic tank shall be over excavated, as needed, and backfilled with sand, crushed stone, or gravel to the proper grade.

(A) Septic tanks shall not be buried deeper than the tank manufacturer's maximum designed depth for the tank. The minimum depth of soil cover over the top of the tank is twelve (12) inches.

(B) Backfill around and over the septic tank shall be placed in such a manner as to prevent undue strain or damage to the tank or connected pipes.

(C) Septic tanks shall not be placed in areas subject to vehicular traffic unless engineered for the anticipated load.

(iii) Size

(A) The minimum liquid volume of a septic tank shall be 1000 gallons for residences up to a four (4) bedroom capacity. Additional capacity of 250 gallons per bedroom shall be provided for each bedroom over four (4).

(B) Septic tanks for high strength wastewater or non-residential units shall have a minimum effective liquid capacity sufficient to provide at least 48 hour retention at design flow or 1,000 gallons, whichever is greater.

(iv) Configuration

(A) Single compartment septic tanks shall have a length to width ratio of no less than two (2) to one (1), or be partitioned to protect against short circuiting flow.

(B) For septic tanks with two (2) compartments or more, the inlet compartment shall not be less than one-half (1/2) of the total capacity of the tank.

(C) The liquid depth shall be between three (3) feet and six (6) feet.

(D) The tank partition shall allow the venting of gases between compartments and out through the vent stack on the plumbing system of the house.

(I) The inlet and outlet on all tanks or tank compartments shall be provided with open-ended sanitary tees or baffles made of approved materials constructed to distribute flow and retain scum in the tank or compartments. The tees or baffles shall extend above the liquid level a minimum distance of five (5) inches.

(II) The inlet tees or baffles shall extend below the liquid level at least eight (8) inches but no more than 40% of the liquid level. The outlet tees or baffles shall extend below the liquid level at least ten (10) inches but no more than 45% of the liquid level.

(III) A minimum of one (1) inch of clear space shall be provided over the top of the baffles or tees for venting.

(IV) The inlet pipe shall be at least two (2) inches higher than the outlet pipe. The outlet elevation shall be designed to provide a minimum distance of nine (9) inches or twenty (20) percent of the liquid depth between the top of the liquid and the bottom of the septic tank cover for scum storage and the venting of gases.

(v) If additional septic tank capacity over 1,000 gallons is needed, it may be obtained by joining tanks in series provided the following requirements are met:

(A) The inlet of each successive tank shall be at least two (2) inches lower than the outlet of the preceding tank, and shall have no tee or baffle except for the inlet to the first tank and the outlet for the last tank.

(B) The first tank or the first compartment of the first tank shall be equal to fifty percent (50%) or larger of the total septic tank system volume.

(vi) An access opening shall be provided to each compartment of the septic tank for inspection and cleaning.

(A) The access opening(s) in the cover/lid of the tank shall have a minimum diameter of twenty (20) inches. Both inlet and outlet devices shall be accessible.

(B) The riser from the access opening shall terminate at the ground surface. Riser covers terminating above grade shall have an approved locking device.

(vii) An effluent filter with an opening of 1/8-inch or smaller shall be provided on the outlet of a septic tank or other tank that precedes a small diameter pressure distribution system

(b) Dosing Tanks

(i) Dosing tanks shall meet the same material and installation requirements as septic tanks. Dosing tanks shall have a minimum 20-inch diameter access opening and it shall have a riser from the access opening to the ground surface. The following table shall be used to calculate the size of the dosing tank:

Table 5. Dosing Tank Volume (gallons)

Average Design Flows (gpd)	0-499	500-999	1000-1499	1500-2000
Between Pump “off” and Tank Inlet	350	700	1000	1300
Between Tank Inlet and Alarm Switch	200	400	600	800
Between Alarm switch and Pump “on”	50	100	100	100
Between Pump “on” and Pump “off”	100	200	300	400
Recommended Pump Capacity (gpm)	10	20	30	40

(ii) High water alarms shall be provided for all tanks that use pumps or siphons. The alarm device shall be an audible alarm or an indoor illuminated alarm or both.

(iii) The minimum effluent level shall achieve complete submergence of the pump.

(iv) Dosed systems using a siphon shall have a dose counter installed to check for continued function of the siphon.

(c) Holding Tanks

(i) Holding tanks shall meet the same material requirements as septic tanks. Holding tanks shall have a twenty (20)-inch minimum diameter access opening. A riser shall be brought to ground surface from the access opening.

(ii) Holding tanks shall not be used for residential systems when other alternative systems are available, except on a temporary, seasonal or intermittent basis, or when used to correct a failed soil absorption system when other alternatives are unavailable.

(iii) Holding tanks must be located in an area readily accessible to the pump truck and where the tank itself will not float due to high groundwater. If

seasonal high groundwater may be present, the tank shall be properly anchored.

(iv) The minimum liquid volume shall be the greater of 1,000 gallons or seven (7) days storage based upon flow rate determined from Section 5.

(v) All holding tanks shall be equipped with a high-water level alarm. The device shall be an audible alarm or an indoor illuminated alarm or both. The device shall be installed so that the alarm is triggered when the water level reaches 3/4 of the tank capacity.

(vi) A design package for holding tanks is provided online at the Division's website to assist the applicant in submitting a completed application for coverage under the general permit for small wastewater systems. The worksheet and calculations were prepared by a registered professional engineer employed by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division. The general design requirements stated in this section are incorporated into the worksheets such that by properly completing the forms and installing the components, the system will comply with these requirements.

(d) Grease Interceptors

(i) A commercial or institutional food preparation facility with a waste stream containing fat, oil, and grease (FOG) in excess of 25 mg/L shall install an exterior grease interceptor or a device approved by the delegated health department or county. Facilities that typically have waste streams high in FOG are, but not limited to, restaurants, cafeterias, slaughterhouses, and institutional kitchens.

(ii) Waste streams high in FOG shall be plumbed separately and directly to a grease interceptor prior to the waste treatment process.

(iii) Waste streams from sanitary facilities such as bathrooms, toilets, urinals, or other similar fixtures shall not be discharged into the grease interceptor. These sources must be connected at least four to six (4-6) feet downstream of the grease interceptor's discharge. The design shall prevent any backflow from the sanitary sources into the grease interceptor.

(iv) Only one source facility per grease interceptor shall be allowed.

(v) Grease interceptors shall be located so that they are easily accessible for inspection, cleaning, and removal of the collected wastes. The interceptor shall not be closer than fifteen (15) feet from the last discharging fixture and no further away than thirty-five (35) feet.

(vi) Grease interceptors shall have at least two (2) compartments with a 20-inch minimum diameter access opening for each compartment for cleanout. Each access opening shall have a riser brought to the surface and have a sealed lid that is rated for any anticipated load. There shall be a means provided to sample the effluent.

(vii) There shall be no internal cleanout tees or bypasses.

(viii) The inlet and outlet of the grease interceptor shall be vented. The vent pipe shall be at least two (2) inches in diameter. The inlet and outlet vents shall not be interconnected.

(ix) The outlet pipe invert shall be no more than two (2) inches lower than the inlet invert.

(x) The dividing wall between compartments shall be the same height as the other walls and the cover should contact the top of the dividing wall. If the partition/dividing wall does not contact the cover, the outlet tee or baffle shall extend below the liquid level, 40-50% of the total liquid depth.

(xi) The effluent from each compartment shall be drawn from the bottom of a riser pipe that terminates at least eighteen (18) inches below the inlet pipe invert of that same compartment.

(xii) Grease interceptors shall be accessible during normal business hours without interrupting normal business operations.

(xiii) Grease interceptors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, a Wyoming Professional Engineer design and stamp and applicable requirements of this section. A copy of the manufacturer's instructions shall be submitted with every permit to construct application submitted to the Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department Division of Environmental Health.

(xiv) Grease interceptors shall be sized according to the following:

Kitchens (grease, garbage)

Number of meals per peak hour	X	Waste Flow rate*	X	Retention time**	X	Storage factor***	=	Interceptor size (liquid capacity)
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*Waste flow rate – see Table 2.

**Retention times

Kitchen waste:	
Dishwasher and/or disposal	2.5 hours
Single service kitchen:	
Single serving with disposal	1.5 hours

***Storage factors

Fully equipped commercial kitchen	8 hr. operation: 1 16 hr. operation: 2 24 hr. operation: 3
Single service kitchen:	1.5

(A) The minimum interceptor size (liquid capacity) shall be 750 gallons.

(e) Other Interceptors

(i) Interceptors are required for oil, grease, sand, and other substances harmful or hazardous to the building drainage system, or the small wastewater treatment system.

(A) Laundries

(I) Commercial laundries, laundromats, and dry-cleaners shall be equipped with an interceptor in order to reduce the quantity of lint and silt that enter the collection system.

(II) The system must be of adequate size and design to allow for cool-down of wastewater so that separation can be more readily achieved.

(III) The interceptor shall be installed with a wire basket or similar device. The wire basket or similar device shall be removable for cleaning and shall prevent passage into the drainage system of solids 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) or larger in size, such as string, rags, buttons, or other materials which are detrimental to the waste treatment system.

(IV) Sizing must be in accordance with the following formula:

Laundries (grease, lint, silt)

Total gallons per cycle	X	Cycles per hour	X	Retention time*	X	Storage factor**	=	Interceptor
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*Retention times

Institutional laundries	2.5 hours
Standard commercial laundry	2.0 hours
Light commercial laundry	1.5 hours

**Storage factors

8 hours of operation	1.0
12 or more hours of operation	1.5

(B) Car Washes

(I) Where automobiles are washed (including detail shops using hand-wash practices), separators shall have a minimum capacity of 1000 gallons for the first bay, with an additional 500 gallons of capacity for every other bay.

(II) Additionally, wash racks must be constructed to eliminate or minimize the impact of run-off from rain/storm events. Minimum requirements are roofed structures with at least two walls and appropriate grading to prevent stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer.

(III) An effluent sampling point is required.

(f) Abandonment of Septic and Holding Tanks

The following is the procedure to abandon septic tanks and holding tanks when the system is upgraded, equipment replacement is necessary, or central sewer lines are made available.

(i) The abandoned tank should be pumped and the septage hauled to a licensed facility approved to receive the waste or the septage pumped into the newly constructed septic or holding tank. Discharging to a central sewer requires coordination with, and the approval of, the owner/operator of the sewer system.

(ii) Once the abandoned tank is empty, it should be removed and the excavation backfilled. As an alternative to removing the tank, the access covers can be removed; the bottom drilled or broken up sufficient to drain; and the tank filled with native soil, pit run, or sand.

(iii) If the abandoned tank is part of a Class V UIC facility, the abandonment must also be in compliance with Chapter 27, Section 19 Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Rules.

Section 11. Effluent Distribution Devices.

Distribution boxes and flow divider tees are suitable for level or nearly level ground and are installed before the soil absorption system with the goal of splitting flows equally between soil absorption system laterals. Drop boxes are suitable for sloping ground and are installed to achieve serial loading.

(a) Distribution Boxes

(i) The distribution box shall be installed on a level, stable base to prevent tilting or settling, and to minimize movement from frost heave.

- (ii) Boxes shall be watertight and constructed of concrete or other durable material.
- (iii) Boxes shall be designed to accommodate the inlet pipe and the necessary distribution lines. The inlet piping to the distribution box shall be at least one (1) inch above the outlet pipes and all pipes shall have a watertight connection to the distribution box.
- (iv) The box shall be protected against freezing and made accessible by a riser manhole for observation and maintenance.
- (v) Boxes shall have flow equalizers installed on each outflow.
- (b) Flow divider tees may be used in place of distribution boxes.
- (c) Drop boxes are suitable for sloping ground and are installed to achieve serial loading. The drop boxes shall meet the requirements in paragraphs (a)(i through v) of this section.

Section 12. Standard Soil Absorption Systems.

- (a) General Design Requirements:
 - (i) All soil absorption systems shall be designed in such a manner that the effluent is effectively filtered and retained below the ground surface. The absorption surface accepts, treats, and disperses wastewater as it percolates through the soil.
 - (ii) Soil absorption systems shall not be excavated when the soil is wet enough to smear or compact easily. Open soil absorption system excavations shall be protected from surface runoff to prevent the entrance of silt and debris. All smeared or compacted surfaces shall be raked to a depth of one (1) inch, and loose material removed before filter or filler material is placed in the soil absorption system excavation.
 - (iii) Soil absorption systems shall be designed to approximately follow the ground surface contours so that variation in excavation depths will be minimized. The trenches may be installed at different elevations, but the bottom of each individual trench shall be level throughout its length.
 - (iv) Shallow soil absorption system depths are encouraged to promote treatment and evapotranspiration. The minimum soil cover depth over the soil absorption system is one (1) foot. The maximum depth to the bottom absorption surface of a soil absorption system is five (5) feet. Finished grading shall prevent ponding and promote

surface water runoff.

(v) Pipes, chambers or other products shall be bedded on firm, stable material. Heavy equipment shall not be driven in or over soil absorption systems during construction or backfilling.

(vi) Soil absorption systems shall not be installed during adverse or inclement weather.

(vii) Standard trenches refer to perforated pipe embedded in aggregate-filled trenches that shall conform to the following:

(A) The perforated pipe shall have a minimum diameter of 4 inches. Suitable pipe materials include: ASTM D-2729-11 PVC, ASTM D-3034-08 PVC, Schedule 40 PVC ASTM d1784-11, and ASTM F810-07 PE.

(B) The aggregate shall be crushed rock, gravel or other acceptable, durable and inert material that is free of fines, and has an effective diameter between ½ inch and 2- ½ inches.

(C) Prior to backfilling, the aggregate shall be covered throughout with a woven/non-woven geotextile material or a three (3) inch layer of straw.

(D) Aggregate shall extend the full width and length of the soil absorption system to a depth of at least twelve (12) inches with at least six (6) inches of drain gravel under the distribution pipe and at least two (2) inches over the distribution pipe.

(E) Maximum width of trench excavation is three (3) feet.

(F) Minimum spacing of trenches (wall to wall) is three (3) feet. Trench spacing shall be increased to nine (9) feet when the area between each trench is considered as reserve area. For clay loam soils that have percolation rates greater than 60 min/in., the nine (9) foot spacing shall also be required but it is not considered as reserve area.

(viii) Standard beds shall conform to the same pipe and aggregate requirements for trenches as found in subparagraphs (vi)(A through D) of this section. Standard beds shall also conform to the following:

(A) The soils shall have percolation rates less than 60 minutes per

inch (5-60 mpi). The bottom of the bed must be level, therefore the site shall be relatively flat, sloping no more than one (1) foot from the highest to the lowest point in the installation area.

(B) Distribution laterals within a bed must be spaced on not greater than six (6) feet centers. Sidewalls shall not be more than three (3) feet from a distribution lateral.

(C) Beds must not be wider than twenty-five (25) feet if gravity distribution is used. Multiple beds must be spaced at one-half the bed width.

(D) Rubber tired vehicles must not be driven on the bottom surface of any bed excavation.

(ix) Chambered trenches, when used in lieu of perforated pipe and aggregate, shall be installed in conformance with the manufacturer recommendations. No cracked, weakened, modified, or otherwise damaged chamber units shall be used in any installation.

(A) All chambers shall be an open, arch-shaped structure of durable, non- degradable design, suitable for distribution of effluent without filter material.

(B) All chamber endplates shall be designed so that the bottom elevation of the inlet pipe is at least six (6) inches from the bottom of the chamber. All installations shall bring the source pipe into the top hole of the endplate.

(C) Inlet and outlet effluent sewer pipes shall enter and exit the chamber endplates. Inspection ports shall be installed at all outlet effluent sewer pipes.

(D) All chambers shall have a splash plate under the inlet pipe or another design feature to avoid unnecessary channeling into the trench bottom.

(E) The maximum width of the bottom absorption surface for a chambered trench is three (3) feet. The excavation to install a chambered trench may exceed three (3) feet.

(F) Minimum spacing of trenches (wall to wall) is three (3) feet. Trench spacing shall be increased to nine (9) feet when the area between each trench is considered as reserve area. For clay loam soils that have percolation rates greater than

60 min/in., the nine (9) foot spacing shall also be required but it is not considered as reserve area.

(G) No individual chambered trench shall exceed 100' in length.

(x) Chambered beds shall conform to the same requirements for chambered trenches as found in subparagraphs (viii)(A through D) of this section. Aggregate, as specified in subparagraph (vi)(B) of this section, or native soil shall be used to fill the space between the chambers.

(b) A design package for standard soil absorption systems is provided online at the Division's website to assist the applicant in submitting a completed application for coverage under the general permit for small wastewater systems. The worksheet and calculations were prepared by a registered professional engineer employed by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division. The general design requirements stated in this section are incorporated into the worksheets such that by properly completing the forms and installing the components, the system will comply with these requirements.

Section 13. Pressure Distribution Systems.

(a) General Design Requirements:

(i) The basic elements of a pressure distribution system include a dosing tank, filter, and a means to deliver specified doses to a small diameter pipe network within a soil absorption system. Pressure distribution is required for mound systems or for bed systems with a width greater than twenty-five (25) feet.

(ii) Pressure distribution systems shall be designed and stamped by a licensed Wyoming Professional Engineer.

(iii) Pumps must be sized to match the distribution system curve or demand. Pumps shall be designed for sewage pumping applications and be accessible from the ground surface.

(iv) The control system for the pump and dosing tank shall, at a minimum, consist of a "pump off" switch, a "pump on" switch, and a "high liquid alarm".

(A) All electrical connections must be made outside of the chamber in either an approved weatherproof box or an explosion-proof junction box.

(B) The wiring from the junction box to the control box must pass through a sealing fitting to prevent corrosive gases from entering the control panel.

(C) All wires must be contained in solid conduit from the dosing chamber the control box.

(v) The pressure transport piping between the tank and the soil absorption system shall be designed to prevent freezing.

(A) The ends of lateral piping shall be constructed with long sweep elbows or an equivalent method to bring the end of the pipe to finished grade. The ends of the pipe shall be provided with threaded plugs, caps, or other devices to allow for access and flushing of the lateral.

(B) All joints in the manifold, lateral piping, and fittings shall be solvent- welded using the appropriate joint compound for the pipe material. Pressure transport piping may be solvent-welded or flexible gasket jointed.

(C) Where automatic siphons or other devices are used, they shall be designed to empty the dosing tank in less than ten (10) minutes.

(vi) The pressure distribution system shall have a combination of at least three (3) vertical feet of filter sand and/or unsaturated native soil above the high groundwater level. The filter sand shall conform to ASTM C-33, with less than 2% passing the #200 sieve.

Section 14. Sand Mound Systems.

Sand Mound Systems shall be designed and stamped by a licensed Wyoming Professional Engineer. The sand mound consists of a sand fill, an aggregate bed and a soil cap.

(a) Selection Criteria:

The high groundwater level, bedrock, or impervious clay layer is less than four (4) feet below the bottom of the soil absorption system excavation.

(b) Site Requirements:

(i) A minimum of one (1) foot of vertical separation of the native soil is required between the bottom of the sand fill and the top of the high groundwater level, any restrictive layer, or any highly permeable material.

(ii) The percolation rate of the native soil at the interface of the sand fill shall be greater than five (5) and less than sixty (60) minutes per inch (5-60 mpi). The percolation shall be measured in the top twelve (12) inches of native soil.

(c) General Design Requirements:

(i) Sand Layer

(A) Filter sand shall conform to ASTM C-33, with less than two percent (2%) passing through the #200 sieve.

(B) The minimum depth of sand below the aggregate bed surface shall be one (1) foot.

(C) The sand mound shall have a combination of at least four (4) vertical feet of filter sand and unsaturated native soil above the high groundwater level.

(I) For sand mounds using pressure distribution systems, the depth to high groundwater shall be three (3) feet below the bottom of the absorption surface if the percolation rate of the soil is five (5) minutes per inch or greater (5-60 mpi).

(D) The top of the sand layer under the aggregate bed shall be level in all directions.

(E) The sand layer shall fill around the perimeter of and to the top of the aggregate bed.

(F) The slope of all sides shall be three (3) horizontal to one (1) vertical or flatter. The side slopes shall be graded to prevent seepage and/or ponding at the bottom of the slope.

(G) The infiltration area, which is the bottom of the sand fill, shall be calculated by dividing the design flowrates (gpd) from Table 1 or Table 2 by the loading rate (gpd/ft²) found in Table 5.

(ii) Aggregate Bed

(A) The aggregate shall be crushed rock, gravel or other acceptable, durable and inert material that is free from fines, and has an effective diameter between one-half (1/2) inch and two and one half (2 1/2) inch.

(B) The aggregate bed depth shall not be less than nine (9) inches with a minimum of six (6) inches of clean aggregate placed below the distribution pipe and two (2) inches above the distribution pipe. The aggregate shall be covered with an approved geotextile material after installation and testing of the pressure distribution system.

(C) The design shall be a long, narrow bed design with a maximum

width of twenty-five (25) feet.

(D) The infiltration area, which is the bottom of the aggregate bed, shall be calculated by dividing the design flowrates (gpd) from Table 1 and Table 2 by the loading rate of 0.8 gpd/ft².

(iii) Soil Cover

(A) The soil cap shall be constructed of a sandy loam, loamy sand, or silt loam. The depth of the soil cap shall be at least six (6) inches at the edges to twelve (12) inches at the center. The slope of all sides shall be three (3) horizontal to one (1) vertical or flatter.

(B) A layer of top soil at least six (6) inches thick shall be placed over the entire sand mound area. The sand mound should be planted with vegetation that does not require watering and will not establish deep roots. Native grasses are commonly used.

Section 15. Small Wastewater Lagoons.

Small Wastewater Lagoons shall be designed by a licensed Wyoming Professional Engineer.

(a) Selection Criteria:

(i) Lagoons shall only be considered in areas of Wyoming where the annual evaporation exceeds the annual precipitation during the active use of the lagoon.

(ii) Lagoons shall only be allowed when the percolation rate exceeds sixty (60) minutes per inch and the soil extends vertically down at least two (2) feet from the bottom of the lagoon to the seasonal high groundwater table or bedrock formations.

(iii) A lagoon shall not be constructed within the 100 year floodplain.

(b) General Design Requirements:

(i) Beyond the horizontal setback distances requirements specified in Section 7(g) of this rule, the lagoon shall not be placed within one hundred (100) feet of the owner's property line.

(ii) The use of a septic tank that meets the specifications in Section 9 of

this rule shall be required before the small wastewater lagoon.

- (iii) The lagoon shall be located and constructed so it will not receive surface runoff.
- (iv) The slope of the lagoon site shall not exceed five percent (5%).
- (v) The lagoon site must be located in an area of maximum exposure to sun and wind.
- (vi) The lagoon shall be designed for complete retention.
- (vii) The area of the lagoon shall be calculated based on the following formula.

$$A = \frac{584 \times Q}{(365 \times S) + (E - P)}$$

A = Area of the lagoon (in square feet) at the maximum operating depth of five (5) feet.

Q = Average daily sewage flow, gallons per day. (Multiply values from Table 1 or 2 by 0.6 to get average daily flow.)

E = Average annual lake evaporation in inches per year. (Note: lake evaporation is less than pan evaporation; lake evaporation equals pan evaporation times a pan coefficient of 0.7)

P = Average annual precipitation rate in inches per year.

S = Seepage rate in decimal form, in inches per day.

(viii) The slopes of the dikes shall not be steeper than three (3) horizontal to one (1) vertical. The minimum width of the top of the dike shall be four (4) feet.

(ix) All fill shall consist of impervious material that is well compacted and free of rocks, frozen soil, or other large material.

(x) The minimum operating depth shall be two (2) feet. The dikes shall provide a minimum freeboard of two (2) feet.

(xi) The floor of the lagoon shall be level and maintained free of all vegetation.

(xii) The influent line into the lagoon must discharge near the center.

(xiii) A cleanout, with a tightly fitting cap, shall be provided in the influent line near the dike.

(xiv) The area around the small wastewater lagoon shall be fenced to preclude the entrance of livestock, pets, and humans. The fence shall be equipped with a locking gate. The gate shall have a sign indicating “NO TRESPASSING – WASTEWATER LAGOON”.

Section 16. Privies or Outhouses.

Privies or outhouses require a permit prior to constructing or installing the facility.

Pre-fabricated privies or outhouses shall be sealed, water-tight vaults and shall meet the following conditions.

- (a) The horizontal setback distance requirements for sealed privies or outhouses shall comply with Section 7(g) for septic tanks.
- (b) The depth to seasonally high groundwater from the bottom of a water tight vault shall be sufficient to prevent floatation of the empty vault.
- (c) The vault must have sufficient capacity for the dwelling served, and must have at least 1000 gallons of capacity.
- (d) Privies or outhouses must be insect tight; must have a self-closing door; the privy or outhouse seat must include a cover; and all exterior openings, including vent openings, shall be screened.
- (e) Privies or outhouses must be adequately vented.
- (f) Privies or outhouses shall not be constructed within the 100 year floodplain.

Section 17. Greywater Systems.

Greywater systems require a permit prior to constructing, modifying, or installing the system.

- (a) Greywater Operation and Requirements
 - (i) Restrictions
 - (A) Greywater shall not leave the property on which it is generated. Ponding or runoff is prohibited.

(B) Greywater systems shall not be installed in a delineated floodplain.

(C) The volume of greywater shall not exceed an average of 2000 gallons per day.

(D) Greywater shall not come in direct contact with or adversely impact surface or groundwater.

(E) Food crops for direct human consumption should not be harvested for 30 days after application of greywater.

(ii) Odor control of the greywater system shall meet the requirement of Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Regulations Chapter 2, Section 11.

(iii) If the greywater system is to be used during the winter, the greywater system shall be designed to prevent freezing.

(b) Estimating Greywater Discharge

(i) The greywater discharge for single family and multi-family dwellings shall be calculated by estimates of greywater use based on water use records, or the following procedure:

(A) The number of occupants of each dwelling unit shall be calculated as 2 occupants per bedroom.

(B) The estimated greywater flows of each occupant shall be calculated in gallons per day (gpd) as follows:

Showers, bathtubs and wash basins – 25 gpd/occupant

Laundry – 15 gpd/occupant

(ii) The total number of occupants shall be multiplied by the applicable estimated greywater discharge as provided above and the type of fixtures connected to the greywater system.

(c) Greywater System Configurations

(i) All greywater systems shall have means to direct greywater to either the blackwater system or the greywater system.

(ii) Diverter valves shall not have the potential to allow backflow from the blackwater system into the greywater system.

(iii) Greywater used for surface irrigation shall be disinfected. The disinfection must achieve a fecal coliform level of 200 cfu/100 mL or less. The greywater effluent shall be tested at least annually and results shall be maintained by the operator. Failure to keep records will result in voiding of the permit.

(d) Setbacks

(i) A 50 foot buffer zone is required between the greywater application site and adjacent property lines and any public right-of-way.

(ii) A 50 foot separation distance is required between greywater application sites and all surface waters.

(iii) A 100 foot separation distance is required between greywater application sites and all potable water supply wells.

Section 18. Operation and Maintenance.

(a) For any system that disposes of wastewater through land application or subsurface filtration, the owner shall not add any chemical or biochemical additive to the system that would adversely affect the quality of the groundwater as stated in the Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Rules & Regulations, Chapter 8.

(b) Septic tanks shall be pumped as needed to prevent solids carryover into the soil absorption system.

(c) Holding tanks and sealed vaults shall be pumped prior to reaching their maximum capacity.

(d) Any service provider that pumps septic tanks, holding tanks, or sealed vaults, shall dispose of the wastewater contents at a permitted wastewater treatment facility or in a manner approved by the Division.

(e) Damaged fittings and broken, crushed or plugged piping associated with any small wastewater system shall be replaced in a timely manner.

(f) Composting or non-discharging toilets, when permitted, shall have their waste disposed of at a permitted wastewater treatment facility or landfill, or in a manner approved by the Division.

APPENDIX A Percolation Test Procedure

Section 1. Purpose

(a) Percolation tests are used to determine absorption system site suitability and to size the absorption system.

Section 2. Procedure

(a) General Requirements:

(i) Percolation tests shall not be conducted in test holes that extend into groundwater, bedrock, or frozen ground.

(ii) The percolation test shall be conducted only after the soil exploration pit has been dug and examined.

(iii) A minimum of three (3) percolation test holes are required.

(iv) The percolation test holes shall be spaced uniformly over the proposed soil absorption system site.

(b) Preparation

(i) A twelve (12) inch diameter hole shall be dug or bored to the proposed depth of the soil absorption system.

(ii) The walls shall be vertical, with the natural soil surface exposed without smearing.

(iii) The sides and bottom shall be scarified with a sharp pointed instrument and the loose material shall be removed from the hole.

(iv) Two (2) inches of gravel or coarse sand shall be placed in the bottom of the hole to prevent it from scouring and sealing during water addition.

(c) Presoaking

(i) The purpose of presoaking is to have the water conditions in the soil reach a stable condition similar to that which exists during continual wastewater application. The minimum time of presoaking varies with soil conditions but must be sufficiently long so that the water seeps away at a constant rate. The following presoaking instructions are usually sufficient to obtain a constant rate.

(A) Fill each hole with clear water to a level at least eighteen (18) inches above the gravel or coarse sand. If the eighteen (18) inches of water seeps away in eighteen (18) minutes or less, add eighteen (18) inches of water a second time. If the second filling of eighteen (18) inches of water seeps away in eighteen (18) minutes or less, this indicates the soil is sandy and is excessively permeable. The soil absorption system shall meet the requirements of Section 8 (c).

(B) If either the first or second fillings of eighteen (18) inches of water does not seep away in ninety (90) minutes, eighteen (18) inches of water must be maintained in the hole for at least four (4) hours to presoak the test hole. After the four (4) hours of water contact time, wait at least twelve (12) hours before starting the percolation rate measurement.

(d) Percolation Rate Measurement

(i) Fill each test hole with twelve (12) inches of water and allow the soil to rehydrate for fifteen (15) minutes prior to any measurements.

(ii) Establish a fixed reference point to measure the incremental water level drop at constant time intervals. The water level drop should be measured to the nearest $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch and the minimum time interval is ten (10) minutes.

(iii) Refill the test hole to twelve (12) inches above the gravel before starting the measurements. Continue to measure the incremental water level drop at a constant time interval until a consistent incremental water level drop is achieved. A consistent water level drop is achieved when three (3) consecutive water level drops are within $\frac{1}{8}$ inches of each other.

(iv) Before the water level drops below one (1) inch above the gravel, refill the test hole to twelve (12) inches and continue to measure the incremental water level drop.

(v) The percolation rate is calculated for each hole using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Time Interval (Minutes)}}{\text{Final Water Level Drop (inches)}} = \text{Percolation Rate (minutes/inch)}$$

(vi) If only three to five percolation tests are performed, the design percolation rate for the absorption system is the largest rate from all the holes tested. If six or more percolation tests are performed, the design percolation rate for the absorption system is the average of all the holes tested as determined by the above formula.

(e) The following information shall be included:

(i) Date of test

(ii) Location, diameter and depth of each test hole

(iii) Duration of presoak

(iv) Time of day for beginning and end of each water-level drop interval

(v) Each water-level drop measurement

(vi) Calculated percolation rate

(vii) Name and signature of person performing test;

(viii) Name of owner or project name; and

(ix) Certification that the percolation test was done in accordance with Laramie County Small Wastewater System Regulations.