

## **BACKGROUND**

In 1999, the Florida Legislature established wastewater treatment and disposal standards for Monroe County under Section 6 of Chapter 99-395, Laws of Florida (L.O.F). In 2010, these requirements were incorporated into Section 403.086(10), Florida Statutes, and the deadline for wastewater compliance was extended to **January 1, 2016**.

The authority for local governments in Monroe County to require connection to their central wastewater systems remains in Section 4 of Chapter 99-395, L.O.F.

**Beginning January 1, 2016**, the effluent from Domestic Wastewater Facilities with design capacities of less than 100,000 Gallons Per Day (GPD) shall not exceed the following standards on an annual average basis:

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) = 10 mg/L  
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = 10 mg/L  
Total Nitrogen (TN) = 10 mg/L  
Total Phosphorus (TP) = 1 mg/L

**Beginning January 1, 2016**, the effluent from Domestic Wastewater Facilities with design capacities of greater than or equal to 100,000 GPD shall not exceed the following standards on an annual average basis:

BOD = 5 mg/L  
TSS = 5 mg/L  
TN = 3 mg/L  
TP = 1 mg/L

The information provided herein is applicable to any non-single family residential properties with existing FDEP or Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) regulated systems, which may require a FDEP collection system permit for connection to a central sewer system. Abandonment of existing Facilities is handled through the current regulating Department.

## **CONNECTION**

**Generally speaking, any non-single family residential properties with more than one building will require a FDEP wastewater collection system permit to connect to a central sewer system.**

Applications for a FDEP wastewater collection system permit must be completed by a Florida Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.), submitted to the South District Office, and the permit must be obtained prior to construction. The system must be **cleared for use** by the Department prior to being placed into service.

Several local municipalities will not issue local permits prior to receiving a copy of the FDEP wastewater collection system permit or correspondence from the FDEP indicating that the connection is exempt.

Collection System Permitting Guidance, including exemption information, is available on the Department's website at <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/domestic-wastewater-collectiontransmission-system-permitting>

**Questions regarding wastewater collection system permitting and exemptions are best submitted via email to the Department's South District permitting staff**, (contact information in this brochure), with a plan of the proposed system and a sketch with property boundaries and the right-of-way clearly marked on the drawing. The Department will promptly advise via email whether or not a FDEP permit is required.

Prior to determining whether a FDEP wastewater collection system permit will be required for connection of any non-single family residential property, please contact the relevant municipality (contact information in this brochure) to learn more about the point and type of connection which will be provided to you.

## **COMMON EXEMPTIONS FROM FDEP WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PERMITTING**

- \* Construction of an individual service connection from a single family residence.
- \* Replacement of any facilities with new facilities of the same capacity at the same location as the facilities being replaced.
- \* Construction of any individual service connection from a single building to a gravity collection system; however, construction of a non-gravity connection from other than a single family residence to an existing force main system requires a permit.
- \* Construction of a low pressure [grinder pump] or vacuum sewer individual service connection to an alternative collection system where the alternative collection system serving the area has been previously permitted by the Department.

## **ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES**

Facility and disposal system abandonment is regulated by the Department you are currently permitted by.

For information on abandonment of MCHD regulated Facilities, please contact:  
Cristina Bernal  
(305)289-2721  
[Cristina.Bernal@FIHealth.gov](mailto:Cristina.Bernal@FIHealth.gov)

## ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES

### CONTINUED...

Abandonment of a **FDEP permitted Wastewater Treatment Plant** requires written notice **at least 60 days prior to inactivation** (connection) in accordance with Rule 62-620.610(15), Florida Administrative Code. The Facility abandonment plan should be submitted to the Marathon Branch Office via email.

The Facility abandonment plan must specify what steps will be taken to safeguard public health and safety during and following abandonment.

Items to consider in the abandonment plan include removal of all wastewater from the site by a licensed sludge hauler (pump-out receipts must be retained), disinfection steps to be taken, removal of all electrical components and piping, and how you will prevent the accumulation of rain water and provide safe access to the site if the Facility is abandoned in place.

If the Facility is to be demolished, an Asbestos Notification is required at least 10 working days prior to demolition. Please contact Jason Golden in the FDEP Marathon Branch Office at (305)289-7073 or [Jason.Golden@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Jason.Golden@FloridaDEP.gov) for additional information on this requirement.

**Only a licensed Domestic Wastewater operator may authorize disposal of treated wastewater to the injection wells following connection.**

### INJECTION WELL ABANDONMENT

A permit **MUST** be obtained from FDEP for abandonment of Class V injection wells. An application and fee of \$25 per injection well should be submitted to the South District Office. **The well abandonment must be performed by a Florida Licensed Well Driller.**

Please contact David Rhodes at (239)344-5687 or [David.Rhodes@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:David.Rhodes@FloridaDEP.gov) with additional questions on injection well abandonment.

### **When receiving an estimate for connection and abandonment work, please consider the following:**

Does the estimate include fees/costs for permitting/design of a FDEP permitted wastewater collection system? If not, should it?

Does the estimate include a Facility abandonment plan including the cost of sludge hauling and demolition, if applicable?

Does the estimate include the cost of any applicable County or municipal permits?

Does the estimate include the fees/costs for a FDEP permit for abandonment of Class V injection wells as well as retaining a Florida Licensed Well Driller?

If you have any questions about the services included in estimates you receive for connection and abandonment, please contact the Department.

### MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

City of Marathon – Dan Saus  
(305)289-5009 or [sausd@ci.marathon.fl.us](mailto:sausd@ci.marathon.fl.us)  
<http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us/government/utilities/wastewater-utility/>

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority – Josh Peele  
(305)809-2636 or [jpeelee@fkaa.com](mailto:jpeelee@fkaa.com)  
<http://www.fkaa.com/wastewater.htm>

Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District  
(305)451-4019 or [construction@klwtd.com](mailto:construction@klwtd.com)  
<http://www.klwtd.com/>

Monroe County Building Department  
(305)289-2501  
<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?nid=124>

Village of Islamorada – Pedro Ruiz  
(305)664-6450 or [Pedro.Ruiz@islamorada.fl.us](mailto:Pedro.Ruiz@islamorada.fl.us)  
<http://www.reynoldswaterislamorada.com/>



## **Guidance for Connection of Non-Single Family Residential Properties to Central Sewer Systems in the Florida Keys**

### Marathon Branch Office

Gary Hardie, Water Facilities  
(305)289-7074

[Gary.Hardie@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Gary.Hardie@FloridaDEP.gov)

Gus Rios, Environmental Administrator  
(305)289-7081

[Gus.Rios@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Gus.Rios@FloridaDEP.gov)

### South District Office

P.O. Box 2549  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-2549

Gary Maier, P.E.  
(239)344-5664

[Gary.Maier@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Gary.Maier@FloridaDEP.gov)

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