



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

2600 Blair Stone Road
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Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Jonathan P. Steverson
Secretary, DEP



Florida Department of Health

4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1701

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General, Secretary, DOH

May 27, 2016

Dear Septage Hauler:

This letter is a follow-up to the April 8, 2016, letter sent by the Department of Health (DOH) providing guidance ahead of the upcoming June 30 prohibition on the land application of septage under Section 381.0065, Florida Statutes (F.S.). DOH and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recognize the potential difficulties faced by the onsite sewage industry, and want to work with you to ensure that environmental protections are maintained while you are seeking alternatives for septage management before June 30, 2016. Our agencies have been working together to develop additional information and guidance to assist your businesses with the transition, and in identifying alternatives to septage land application regulated by Section 381.0065, F.S., in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

Our agencies recognize that properly transitioning to the available alternatives may take more time to complete where additional environmental reviews and permit applications are required. If additional time is needed to transition to one of the available alternatives as discussed below, affected businesses can apply for a temporary variance from DOH under the provisions of section 381.0065, F.S., and Chapter 64E-6, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The variance application (form DH 4057, available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/forms-publications/documents/DH4057.pdf>) should be completed by the land application site property owner or their authorized agent and submitted to the appropriate county health department, along with the \$300.00 application fee. The criteria for a variance are outlined in section 381.0065(4)(h)1., F.S.

Any affected business that needs to apply for a variance as described above should notify the county health department of its intent to apply for a variance by June 25, 2016, and provide completed variance applications to the county health department no later than September 5, 2016. Businesses that seek a variance will be required to continue to operate under the environmental and public health protections of Chapter 64E-6, F.A.C., until the transition to another alternative can be completed. Temporary variances issued by DOH will expire on July 1, 2017. If you have any questions regarding the variance process, please contact your county health department (<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/county-health-departments/find-a-county-health-department/index.html>), or DOH's Central Office at 850-245-4050.

The temporary variance allows affected businesses time to choose the best alternative to septage land application for their individual situation. Alternatives include taking septage to DEP-permitted wastewater treatment facilities, biosolids treatment facilities, and septage management facilities (see attached list). Other options include dewatering septage and disposing of the solids in a landfill. Additionally, businesses may choose to apply for a permit from DEP in accordance with Chapter 62-640, F.A.C. and Chapter 403, F.S. DEP permitted facilities are not subject to the prohibition, however the facilities must comply with additional requirements that are applicable for land application under Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., available at <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=62-640>.

If your business selects the option of obtaining a permit from DEP, the DEP's district offices are ready to assist applicants with the application process. A brief outline on the steps to apply for a DEP permit under Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., is attached. To inquire further about a DEP permit, please contact the appropriate DEP district office or visit <http://dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/dom/septic.htm> for more information.

DEP Permitting Contacts

Name	District	Telephone	Email Address
Tom Kallemeyn	Northeast	904-256-1700	Thomas.Kallemeyn@dep.state.fl.us
Nolin Moon	South	239-344-5600	Nolin.Moon@dep.state.fl.us
Dennise Judy	Central	407-897-4100	Dennise.Judy@dep.state.fl.us
Jacki Champion	Southwest	813-470-5700	Jacquelyn.Champion@dep.state.fl.us
Brad Akers	Southeast	561-681-6600	Brad.Akers@dep.state.fl.us
Bill Evans	Northwest	850-595-8300	Bill.Evans@dep.state.fl.us

Sincerely,



John A. Coates, P.E., Director
Division of Water Resource Management



Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, State Toxicologist & Chief
Bureau of Environmental Health

JAC/mbd

cc: DEP District Offices
DOH County Health Departments

Enclosure