

## Septic Program

On-site Waste Water (Septic) Program North Carolina general statutes state that a person owning or controlling a residence, place of business, or a place of public assembly shall provide an approved sanitary sewage system. As a result, the Commission for Health Services has compiled rules and regulations addressing the placement, design, installation, and maintenance of subsurface ground absorption sewage disposal systems. The environmental Health Section of the Department of Public Health acts as authorized agents of the Department of Health and Human Services and ensures that these rules and regulations are enforced and the public's health is protected.

### **Applications for Permits for Sewage Disposal Systems**

Applications for lot evaluations for a subsurface sewage disposal permit can be made online through the Citizen Portal or in person at 127 W. Webster St Whiteville NC. The Environmental Health Specialist will make a site evaluation based on the following factors:

- Topography and landscape position
- Soil characteristics
- Soil wetness
- Soil depth
- Restrictive horizons
- Available space

Once the lot has been evaluated and approved a **Construction Authorization Permit** for a subsurface sewage disposal system is issued. (This permit is also used to obtain building permits at the Building Inspections Dept, 127 W. Webster St Whiteville NC). Once the septic system is installed, another inspection is performed and an **Operation permit** is issued to the property owner.

Septic Permits Order:

- Application (with all required forms and documentation)
- Site Evaluation by REHS
- Improvement Permit issued
- Construction Authorization Permit issued
- Operation Permit (septic system installed on property)

## Septic Repairs

A malfunction of a septic system requires an application be made for a septic repair permit.

- Copy of the property deed must be submitted along with a septic repair application. This can be obtained from Columbus County Register of Deeds.
- Submit septic repair application
- REHS evaluates the property
- Once the lot has been evaluated and approved, a **Construction Authorization Permit** for a subsurface sewage disposal system is issued.
- **Operation Permit** issued once the new system or the repair has been installed.

## Septic Re-inspection

The property currently has an existing onsite sewage system and the home is being removed from the property and a new home is being placed on the property. If the new home is the same number of bedrooms as the existing home OR the permit on file shows the same number of bedrooms then the existing system can be used. The owner or legal representative must apply for a septic re-inspection permit.

- Apply for septic re-inspection
- Site Evaluation by REHS
- Construction Authorization Permit Issued

## Septic Expansion

The property currently has an existing onsite sewage system and the home is being removed from the property and a new home is being placed on the property. If the new home has more bedrooms than the existing home, then an expansion of the existing septic system is required. The record on file in Environmental Health determines the number of bedrooms the system was originally permitted for at the time of installation.

- Apply for a septic expansion
- Site evaluation by REHS
- Improvement Permit issued
- Construction Authorization Permit issued
- Operation Permit (septic system-additional drainlines installed on property)