



## Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Environmental Health Division

### Public Meeting to Review Proposed Amendments to Article I & Article IV

#### Public Meeting

- **Date:** Thursday, May 6th
- **Time:** Begins @ 6:00 PM
- **Location:**  
PHSS Offices  
412 Lilly Road NE  
Room 107  
Olympia, WA 98506
- If you cannot attend this meeting you can also provide comments in writing or via our web site.

#### Written Comments can be sent to:

Steve Petersen  
Thurston County PHSS  
Environmental Health  
2000 Lakeridge Dr SW  
Olympia WA 98502

#### Make Comments Via Our Website at:

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/  
health/ehoss/  
feedback.oss.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/feedback.oss.html)

#### Our website can be accessed at:

[Environmental Health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/)

Phone: 360-867-2627

Fax: 360-867-2660

E-mail: [peterss@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:peterss@co.thurston.wa.us)

Thurston County's sewage system regulations (Article IV) were updated on January 1, 2010 to meet the minimum requirements of state law. A key part of these amendments is a requirement for the evaluation of On-Site Sewage System (OSS) when the property they serve is sold or transferred. The requirement was put in place to help inventory sewage systems and identify and assure the timely repair of failing sewage systems.

Further revisions to Article IV are proposed to augment the time of transfer program. If adopted, these changes will require:

- The property owner to have the OSS evaluated prior to the sale or transfer of the property, and report the findings to the buyer and the health department.
- The health department to:
  - Evaluate permit records and requirements and report the findings to the applicant before the system is evaluated.
  - Report back to the applicant after the system evaluation is complete and tell them if the system is in compliance with county code and if problems were identified during the evaluation that warrant their attention.
  - With the exception of failing systems, applicants will not be required to address deficiencies or discrepancies identified in the reports as part of the time of transfer program. Septic system owners, however, may choose to make corrections to meet expectations of purchasers.

The current regulations only require the health department to receive and store OSS inspection records, maintain an OSS inventory, and follow up on failures identified during the inspection process. These requirements go into effect June 1, 2010 unless amended by the Board of Health.

These changes are proposed to better meet public expectations. We believe septic system owners and purchasers will want to know the sewage system permit status and whether the sewage system is in compliance with the regulations. The proposed program increases the time of transfer fee to provide resources to the health department to complete their evaluation and reporting requirements.

(continued on the next page)

**C**ome to this meeting to find out more about this proposal before the Board of Health hearing. Staff will be available to review the proposed changes with you and discuss your questions and concerns.

**T**he Board of Health Hearing, where formal testimony on the proposed changes will be heard, takes place Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 5:00 PM; at the Thurston County Courthouse, Building One, Room 280; 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia WA 98502

### **O**ther Proposed Changes and Clarifications

- Registered Sanitarians would be allowed to inspect certain types of on-site sewage systems, in addition to other on-site professionals
- Requirements for a renewable operational certificate for reduced size drainfields are clarified
- The fee for the time of transfer program is increased so the health department can complete additional review and reporting requirements
- The implementation date for the time of transfer program is reset to September 1, 2010

Meeting to Discuss Proposed Changes  
Thursday, May 6th @ 6:00 PM  
Public Health Offices  
412 Lilly Road NE, Room 107  
Olympia WA 98506