Thurston County
Permitting System Policies & Procedures

Number: ONST.09.POL.845
Title: REQUIREMENTS FOR BY-PASSING AN INTERMITTENT SAND FILTER
Related: None

The purpose of this policy is to describe the conditions when an intermittent sand filter may be by-passed. When a proposal is received, recommending that an intermittent sand filter be by-passed for the purposes of reducing a biological clog, the following shall apply:

1. A temporary sand filter by pass will not be allowed in the following situations:
   - The horizontal separation from the sewage disposal component to surface water or a drinking water source is less than fifty (50) feet
   - The disposal component is reduced in size
   - The sewage system was required to meet treatment standard A or treatment standard 1
   - The sand filter was mitigation for a waiver or reduced setback.

2. Diagnostics must be performed to determine the cause of the sand filter failure.
   - Completed by a County-certified monitoring specialist, licensed sewage system designer, or professional engineer
   - Diagnostics must evaluate at a minimum;
     1. waste strength
     2. leaking plumbing fixtures
     3. ground water intrusion to any OSS Component
     4. daily flows not to exceed design parameters
     5. biomat buildup in the sand filter
   - Waste strength analysis, if taken, must be performed by a Washington Department of Ecology certified laboratory. The septic tank effluent shall meet the following conditions:
     - TSS: ≤ 80 mg/L
     - BOD₅: ≤ 150 mg/L
     - O&G: ≤ 20 mg/L

Approved: [Signature]  
Environmental Health Director
Date: January 27, 2009

Cancels: New
Related:
3. A licensed sewage system designer or professional engineer must submit the following for review:

A. Sewage system design proposal with the applicable fees and repair application.
B. Results of the diagnostics evaluation.
C. Documentation indicating they have notified their client in writing that the sewage system is being operated outside the parameters of the original permit conditions.

4. The existing pump chamber serving the sand filter must have or be retrofitted for timed controlled dosing and the minimum pump chamber sizing as per the current pressure distribution guidelines.

5. The OSS owner shall ensure that the OSS is brought back into compliance with the applicable regulations within twelve (12) months of the sand filter bypass. A licensed sewage system designer or professional engineer must submit written documentation to the department that the sand filter has been put back into service.

6. The Environmental Health Division will classify the sewage system as a non-conforming system until the sand filter is repaired or replaced. An operational certificate will not be issued for the sewage system until it is designated as a conforming system.

7. An Operational Certificate will be issued for one (1) year to ensure the sand filter functions properly after it is brought back on-line.

8. If a proprietary device is added to the system a third party monitoring specialist certified in Thurston County will be required as per policy Onst.07.POL.605.