

ACTION ITEM 8.4 – SEPTIC TANK SEPTAGE DISPOSAL

ACTION ITEM

Local governments must develop a plan for the disposal of septage generated within their jurisdiction at local wastewater treatment plants or alternative disposal locations.

OBJECTIVE

Minimize illegal dumping by providing for proper septage disposal.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURE

Although proper septage disposal is the responsibility of the septage generator, local jurisdictions must develop a septage disposal plan to facilitate its proper disposal by residents. If a local government accepts septage at a local wastewater facility, that facility must develop acceptable parameters for septage disposal to include at a minimum: the days/times of the week septage is accepted and the volume of septage allowed per day. Septic systems should not be permitted by the County Board of Health if sufficient capacity for septage disposal has not been identified.

Septage haulers are required to submit copies of their hauling manifests to wastewater facilities. Wastewater providers must forward these manifests to the County Board of Health department as a record of proper septic tank maintenance. Monitoring hauling manifests will help to minimize public health and environmental problems associated with illegal septage disposal. Local wastewater providers should plan for future septage disposal demands based on local wastewater master plans, anticipated zoning density, and the average disposal frequency (Action Item 9.1). Local wastewater providers should plan for future septage demands when designing wastewater treatment plant expansions and/or new wastewater facilities. Illegal dumping of septage into local waterways presents a water quality problem and illegal dumping into manholes can disrupt operations at the wastewater treatment facilities.

Currently, the location and condition of septic systems is not consistently tracked and managed throughout the state. Some local governments in the Metro Water District have taken steps to locate and inventory the septic systems in their jurisdiction. To better manage and track septic system permits, repairs and failures, the DHR should create a database for septic systems in Georgia. The County Board of Health should use this database to track septic system permits, repair activities and system failures. Local wastewater providers should support this effort by providing septage manifests and local governments should support this effort by providing available local data to their County Board of Health.

Responsible Party

- Local Government
- Local Wastewater Provider
- Other: _____

In Coordination With

- Site Plan Review Staff
- Community Development/ Zoning
- Local Stormwater Program
- Local Wastewater Providers
- Local Water Provider
- County Board of Health
- Other: neighboring wastewater providers (where appropriate)

Section 8: SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND DECENTRALIZED SYSTEMS

SPECIFIC SUB-TASKS

Sub-Task	Description
Develop a plan and acceptable parameters for septage disposal	Local governments must plan for septage disposal when determining future areas served by septic. Local wastewater providers must determine acceptable parameters for septage disposal at local wastewater treatment facilities.
Collect septage manifests and provide to County Board of Health	Local wastewater providers must collect and provide septage manifests to County Board of Health.
Consider septage disposal needs when upgrading or designing new wastewater treatment facilities	Local wastewater providers should consider future septage needs when designing new or upgrading wastewater facilities.