

**§ 201-5. Sewage disposal.** *[Amended 6-15-1999, effective 7-1-1999; Amended 6-19-2007, effective 7-1-2007]*

A. 310 CMR 15.00, Title V of the State Environmental Code, as most recently amended, is hereby adopted as a local regulation for the Town of Northbridge.

B. Percolation and soils evaluation testing procedures.

- (1) Application for percolation/soils evaluation testing must be filled out completely and submitted with appropriate fee to the Board of Health office prior to testing. This form shall include the name of the applicant, owner if different, street address, map and parcel number (available from the Assessor's office), the location of the proposed testing and the name of the registered professional engineer, registered sanitarian or other professional authorized by law who will be performing the test in the presence of the Board of Health Agent. Included with this application shall be the Assessor's map showing the location of the testing with directions to the site (off road), etc. For large tract testing a copy of the proposed lots will be required. Utility pole number nearest lot may also be required. All documentation will be required prior to testing.
- (2) The Board of Health will issue a permit number for each application submitted. This number is required when scheduling testing with the Board of Health Agent. No testing will be scheduled without this number. The Engineer for the applicant requesting the testing shall contact the Board of Health Agent a minimum of seven days prior to the requested date. Testing will be scheduled on a first-come first-served basis.
- (3) Percolation and soils evaluation tests may be made at any scheduled time during the year. However, an acceptable percolation test does not mean the lot is buildable.
- (4) Soils evaluation holes on single lots must be excavated prior to the Agent's arrival on site and are to be left open for inspection. Soils evaluation holes shall be excavated on the day of testing and not the day before.
- (5) At the time of testing, the engineer performing the test will set a permanent benchmark and provide the Board of Health Agent with elevations of each percolation and soils evaluation test performed. The engineer shall also provide horizontal ties to all permanent landmarks, property corners, utility poles, etc. This includes failed tests and abandoned tests as well.
- (6) For new construction only, the engineer will be required to place grade stakes in all soils evaluation holes. These stakes will be marked with the test number and date of

testing. The stakes will serve to locate the testing at future dates. This is not a requirement for soils testing on septic system repairs.

- (7) For testing on large tracts of land or land not easily accessible, the engineer performing the test will provide to the Board of Health within 60 days of testing, but in any case prior to submitting design plans, the above information (elevations and ties) or the results will be considered null and void and a new application and fee will be required. This will also violate 310 CMR 15.018 which gives soil evaluators 60 days to submit test information or face revocation of certification.
- (8) In areas of rock outcrops, ledge, or other areas comprised of less than four feet of natural occurring pervious material, a minimum of four soils evaluation holes will be required to ensure on-site suitability. The Board of Health Agent may require additional holes if necessary.
- (9) In the case of a cancellation of testing, the Board of Health Agent must be notified 24 hours prior to the scheduled test to avoid forfeiture of application fee. This does not include cancellation due to weather conditions.
- (10) The applicant's engineer must submit within 60 days of the date of the percolation and/or soils evaluation the results of those tests on DEP approved forms pursuant to 310 CMR 15.018. When testing is done separately results shall be forwarded and not left until the testing has been completed.
- (11) A complete soils test shall be valid for a period of two years. A complete soils test shall be considered the performance of both the soils evaluation holes and percolation test. The two-year period shall commence upon the performance of the complete soils test.
- (12) If the tests are done separately (soils evaluation one time, percolation test another), then the remaining part of the test must be completed within one year of the performance of the first part of the test to avoid forfeiture of the application. A new application will be required to continue testing.
- (13) If one or both tests should fail and the lot is comprised of enough area, then all other testing must be performed at least 60 feet from the failed test. A second application with appropriate fee may be required prior to testing. Abandoned test (other than due to high groundwater) will be considered as failures.
- (14) Unused applications will be good for a period of one year, after which time they shall be considered null and void and a new application submitted; application fees are nonrefundable.
- (15) Additional tests due to movement of the system or other engineering requirements will need a new application and will be subject to scheduling procedures.

- (16) Extensions beyond the two-year time limit for completed test are allowed with certain provisions. Please see § 201-5M of these regulations.
- (17) As of March 31, 1998, the Board of Health will no longer accept soils data performed under the 1978 Title 5 Code.

C. Plan requirements.

- (1) All requests for plan reviews shall be submitted to the Board of Health office using the request for plan review form. Each request must include the appropriate fee, an application for disposal works construction permit and six sets of the design plan.
- (2) All plans are to show name of applicant, owner's name and name of individual for whom the percolation test was performed (if different from present applicant), engineer at the time of testing, and agent witnessing the test as well as others present on site. The house number and street location of the lot should be shown and reference made to the lot designation used when the percolation tests were performed (if different) as well as the permit number from the subsurface testing.
- (3) The minimum effluent loading rate for design shall be 0.6 gpd/sq.
- (4) The following information will be required on all plan review submittals and shall be considered amendments to 310 CMR 15.00, Title, 5 of the State Environmental Code:
  - (a) Title block.
    - [1] Name of applicant.
    - [2] Street address and lot number.
    - [3] Name of engineer/sanitarian.
    - [4] Address and phone number of engineer/sanitarian.
    - [5] Engineer/sanitarian stamp (wet stamp; including discipline).
    - [6] Engineer/sanitarian signature and date.
    - [7] Revisions, date and type.
  - (b) Design criteria.
    - [1] Number of bedrooms.
    - [2] Number of people (if required).
    - [3] Square footage of building (if required).
    - [4] Number of gallons per day.
    - [5] System in nitrogen sensitive area (then no more than 440 gpd per acre required; well and septic quality as nitrogen sensitive).
    - [6] Size of septic tank (one-thousand-five-hundred-gallon minimum).
    - [7] Note that no garbage disposal is allowed.
    - [8] Note that hydraulic cement is required to seal all connections at the septic tank and d-box.

[9] Note that water softeners are not to be connected to tank.

(c) Property plan.

- [1] Property lines with bearings and distances.
- [2] Building setback lines in accordance with zoning.
- [3] Lot number, area and deed reference.
- [4] Existing topography shown as dashed lines at two-foot contour intervals minimum (at least 100 feet in all directions).
- [5] Proposed topography shown as solid lines at two-foot contour intervals minimum (at least 100 feet in all directions).
- [6] Plan at 20 scale (30 and 40 scale plans will not be allowed); locus plans allowable at a lesser scale.
- [7] North arrow.
- [8] Locus map.
- [9] Property abutter(s) (direct abutters only).
- [10] Two permanent benchmarks with good descriptions shown on the lot out of the construction area; ties to benchmarks will be required.
- [11] Street name and width; noting public or private.
- [12] Note any stormwater drainage or note that none exists.
- [13] Note any wetland areas and who flagged or state that no wetlands are found within 200 feet of the disturbed area.
- [14] Show all water supplies, existing and proposed, within 200 feet (well and municipal) of the proposed septic system or note if over 200 feet.
- [15] Show all septic systems within 150 feet of the proposed septic system or note if greater than 150 feet.
- [16] Distance ties to well.
- [17] Distance ties to septic system (include at least two ties to opposite corners).
- [18] Any and all easement shown and labeled with metes and bounds.
- [19] Show Flood Hazard Map reference and state if project falls within a flood hazard area.
- [20] Note if area is tributary to a drinking water supply or note if not.
- [21] Show any and all public drinking water supply wells or note if none exist.
- [22] Show any overhead wires and underground utilities or state that none exist.
- [23] A DigSafe note and telephone number shall appear on all plans.
- [24] State which zone the parcel lies in and show setback requirements (this will be reviewed by the Building Inspector).
- [25] Legend.
- [26] House/building sill and basement floor elevations.
- [27] Proposed spot elevations at house (pipe exit); all corners of house; septic tank; D-box; system.
- [28] Septic tank and D-box shown and labeled; also pump chamber when applicable.
- [29] Show removal of A and B Horizons (top and subsoil) on plan view and in general notes.
- [30] Show reserve area clearly.

- [31] Show all testing, including failed testing. (System should be placed in test area.)
- [32] Show monuments/markers that were used to field locate all testing.
- [33] Clearly indicate that breakout is achieved for the complete system.
- [34] Show all means of stabilizing slopes. (For any slope 2 to 1 or less environmental matting will be used.)
- [35] Clearly indicate how runoff from the system will be handled; do not direct to others property (rip-rap may be required).
- [36] Show a limit of construction on the plan view.
- [37] When wetlands are present then all mitigating measures (haybales/fencing) will be shown with details.
- [38] If a clay barrier is used the clay specifications must be at 10 to the minus 7th CMS; a detail showing the width and elevations for the barrier will be provided as well as the origin of the clay used (no tailings, backwash, etc., shall be used).

(d) Soils testing data.

- [1] Date(s) of all testing.
- [2] Applicant at time of testing.
- [3] Those present at time of testing (engineer, BOH Agent, excavator).
- [4] Soils test pit data; including estimated high groundwater.
- [5] Percolation test data.
- [6] Soils certification: "I certify that on (date) I have passed the examination approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and that the above analysis has been performed by me consistent with the required training, expertise and experience described in 310 CMR 15.018(2)."

(e) Proposed profile.

- [1] Invert at building.
- [2] Invert into septic tank.
- [3] Invert out of septic tank.
- [4] Invert into D-box.
- [5] Invert out of D-box.
- [6] Invert at beginning of all components.
- [7] Invert at end of all components.
- [8] Spec out SCH 40 pipe (perforated) for system.
- [9] Spec out 1 1/2 inch double-washed stone only.
- [10] Spec out 3/8 inch double-washed pea-stone only.
- [11] Note pipe diameter and slope.
- [12] Show pipe length (distance) and slope.

(f) Cross section.

- [1] Dimensions shown and labeled.
- [2] Spacing between trenches (triple width or depth).

- [3] Spec out SCH 40 pipe (perforated) for system.
- [4] Spec out 1 1/2 inch double-washed stone only.
- [5] Spec out 3/8 inch double-washed pea-stone only.
- [6] Note pipe diameter and slope.

(g) Pump system.

- [1] Pump calcs and curves.
- [2] Type of pump.
- [3] Size of chamber.
- [4] Show all elevations on plan for: pump on; pump off; alarm; bottom of chamber; invert in and out.
- [5] Show and note separate audio and visual alarms.
- [6] Show vent with charcoal filter (detail).
- [7] Buoyancy calcs.

- (5) Massachusetts General Law allows for a forty-five-day review period to review subsurface sewage disposal system design plans. If plans are returned for revisions, the forty-five-day review period begins anew upon resubmission of plans. New sets of plans must be submitted when revisions are required. The original plans will not be allowed to be resubmitted for review.
- (6) The line from house to the septic tank shall be ran straight with no bends. After tank, angles greater than  $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  shall not be permitted.
- (7) When a concrete retaining wall is to be used to confine septic breakout, a complete plan showing all details will be required. This plan must include all types of steel required, including spacing and number. Elevations of the wall must be shown on both the detail plan and the plan view on the septic plan. (Specify air entrained concrete at 4,000 psi.) This plan must be stamped by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts professional civil or structural engineer. This engineer will be responsible for all construction and inspection of the wall and will be required to certify as such.
- (8) Systems utilizing a clay barrier to contain breakout must show a detail plan of the proposed barrier, including top and bottom elevations. All plans utilizing a clay barrier will specify clay at 10-cm/sec.
- (9) Systems for repair using alternative technology shall be accompanied by data on the use and design as well as the DEP approval status. The name and telephone number of the alternative technology company shall appear on the plan.
- (10) Plans must have a locus map and all utility poles with their respective numerical designation shall be shown within 100 feet of the property line or within 150 feet of the soil testing area, whichever is lesser.

- (11) The applicant's engineer is to design and submit the plans in accordance with Title 5 and any local regulations using the checklist provided by the Board of Health office. The minimum scale for all plans submitted for review shall be one inch equals 20 feet. All plans shall be blue or black line prints on white background. No photocopies will be allowed unless wet-stamped and signed in blue ink. If, in the opinion of the Board of Health or its agent, the plan is not legible, it shall be returned without review.
- (12) Topography at a minimum of two-foot contour intervals shall be shown on the plan to a minimum of 100 feet in all directions from proposed sewage system and expansion area. The Board or their Agent shall require additional topography if, in their opinion, a greater distance is required to evaluate the proposed sewage system as to compliance with all local regulations. Driveways with appurtenant grading must be shown if within 100 feet of sewage system.
- (13) No garbage disposal units shall be installed in buildings served by subsurface sewage disposal systems. No water softener shall discharge to a septic system.
- (14) Sufficient elevations shall be shown, including final grades at each of the four corners of the building, to indicate clearly how the surface drainage is to be handled. In some cases it shall be necessary to consider effect on nearby properties. No low spots that allow ponding of rainfall runoff shall be permitted. All existing landmarks, including edge of pavement, stone walls, wire fences, old foundations, etc., must be shown.
- (15) Limits of topsoil and subsoil being removed and replaced must be shown when a system is to be constructed in or about that zone. Plans will not be approved with this information not shown.
- (16) All wetlands, as defined by the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act, shall be shown within 200 feet of the sewage system.
- (17) No soil absorption system shall be placed closer than 50 feet to any wetlands, watercourse or any other watercourse. The Title 5 definition of watercourse shall apply.  
**(Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011)**
- (18) No repair septic system shall be placed closer than 25 feet from a watercourse even if utilizing alternative technology.
- (19) The location of all wells and water supplies within 200 feet of the proposed system shall be shown or a statement of certification that none are known to exist within 200 feet of the leach area. All sewage systems within 150 feet of a proposed well location shall be shown or a statement of certification that none are known to exist within that distance shall be indicated on the plans.
- (20) Wells shall be placed a minimum of 10 feet from the property lines.

- (21) There must be sufficient property line information to clearly show the location of the system on the lot. Ties from the well and septic system to the property lines must be shown.
- (22) Two benchmarks must be provided, one of which is to be of a permanent nature. One benchmark should be located near the leach area so that the installer does not have to run levels to install the system. Both benchmarks are to appear on the plan with both being on the lot or in front of it and out of any excavation or fill area. The statement "2nd bench mark to be set prior to construction" is not valid.
- (23) A cross-section of the leach area should be shown (need not be to scale) with dimensions and elevations. The profile of sewage system shall be shown (need not be to scale) with invert and bottom elevations indicated.
- (24) Interceptor trenches utilized to lower groundwater in the system area must be installed prior to construction of the proposed septic system to ensure proper functioning of the system. Once installed, monitoring pipes on each side of the trench may be used to check elevations during the deep hole season. Interceptor trenches installed during the dry season (June-November) must be functioning at least 30 days prior to testing and must be tested during the wet season (December to May). Only after approval of this trench will a disposal works construction permit be issued.
- (25) Plans requiring additional testing will not be approved until testing is completed.
- (26) Systems requiring a local upgrade approval and/or a state variance will not be issued a disposal works construction permit until the Board of Health has approved the local upgrade request and, when applicable, been notified by DEP that the request for variance has been approved.
- (27) Systems requiring an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission will not be issued a disposal works construction permit until the appeal period has lapsed and the Commission has notified the Board of Health that work on the system may commence.
- (28) Upon approval of the subsurface sewage disposal plan, the Board of Health will sign the building permit, provided a private well is not required. If a private well is required, the Board of Health will sign the building permit only after a well permit is issued and quantity and quality results have been submitted and approved by the Board of Health.
- (29) A statement shall appear on the plan recommending that the well be tested a minimum of every two years.
- (30) Plans will be valid for a period of three years commencing on the date of approval shown on plan. The applicant will then have three years from that approval date to pull a permit for construction.



- (31) All plans shall note the use of 2-compartment tanks. (Added 7-1-2007; **Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011**)

D. Disposal works installers license.

- (1) No person shall engage in the construction, repair or replacement of an on-site sewage disposal system without first obtaining a disposal works installers license from the Northbridge Board of Health. All such licenses shall expire December 31 of the calendar year in which they were issued.
- (2) All applicants for disposal works installers licenses shall be required to take and pass an examination to demonstrate their knowledge of Title 5 and these rules and regulations. A grade of 70% will be considered passing.
- (3) The Board of Health may at their discretion waive the testing requirement if the applicant possesses current licenses with three other Massachusetts cities or towns.
- (4) Installers are required to keep their license to install active by submitting a minimum annual fee of \$25 by March 1. Total annual license renewal fee [See § 201-23 Fee Schedule.] balance to be paid when the first disposal works construction permit is taken out. Failure to renew a license by March 1 may require a reexamination of the written test at the expense of the applicant in the Board of Health office. (**Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011**)
- (5) Applications for a license to install must be accompanied by a certificate of insurance with liability insurance in a minimum amount of \$100,000 and must be up to date. The certificate of insurance must be issued to the individual seeking to obtain the installer license.
- (6) When installing, repairing or replacing a subsurface sewage disposal system or any of its components, the licensed installer shall be required to appear in the Board of Health office to fill out a disposal works construction permit.
- (7) The installer shall be required to submit an installer as-built certification form to the Board of Health for approval. The installer shall also be required to sign the certificate of compliance upon completion of work.

E. Installation inspection procedures.

- (1) Only an installer licensed by the Board of Health can install or repair a septic system. The licensed installer must fill out the appropriate paperwork at the Board of Health office and pay any and all fees. The installer who holds the license must sign the paperwork and the permit. The installer must have the approved septic design plan and permit prior to construction.

- (2) For new construction where the system components will be located within 15 feet of the property line, the property corners and all proposed structures, including house, well and system components, the system must be staked out by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts registered professional land surveyor prior to any construction on site. For repair and upgrade systems, this procedure will not be a requirement unless the situation warrants. The installer will be responsible for the placement of the on-site system. It is recommended that the installer hire a surveyor to stake the system.
- (3) The design engineer and the Board of Health Agent must first review any changes to the proposed construction by the installer. The request for change will be made, in writing, by the design engineer giving the reason and the description of the change. All changes are subject to Title 5 and should the proposed change require a variance it will be subject to variance procedures. The change(s) must be approved by the agent and Board of Health and must be shown on the as-built plan.
- (4) The system will be inspected by both the Board of Health Agent and the design engineer at the following points:
  - (a) Excavation of the A and B horizons (top and subsoil). The installer shall excavate the proposed area for disposal in accordance with the provisions on the design plan. The bottom of the excavation area must be scarified at the time of inspection. The design engineer will measure the length and width of the excavated area and show these on the as-built forms.
  - (b) Installation and placement of components.
    - [1] The installer will construct the system in accordance with the approved plan and any approved changes. The installer will provide to the Board of Health the origin of the stone and sand used in the construction process. Placement of all tees, gas baffles and endcaps will be required at time of inspection. The tees in the septic tank will be brought to the middles of the manhole opening. All unused openings in the tank and D-box will be sealed with hydraulic cement. The installer is to leave the vertical four-inch pipes at the ends of the system to allow the measurement of the depth of stone. The installer will have 24 hours to cover the system after inspection. If a pump is installed, a licensed electrician is required to obtain an electrical permit from the Town Electrical Inspector and be inspected according to town requirements.
    - [2] The design engineer will be responsible for the verification of all elevations of the system and its components, including building sill, top of septic tank and top of distribution box.

[3] The Board of Health Agent may at his discretion shoot the elevation of any system component for verification. Additionally, the Board of Health Agent will be required to shoot all grades and elevations for systems constructed by a "design-build" firm.

(c) Final cover and grading. The installer will be required to have all the final grading in place as well as all the breakout grades. All areas around the site will be clear of any construction debris, including downed trees, stumps, rocks, etc. The area will be ready for loaming and seeding. Manhole covers will be brought to within four inches of this grade. The design engineer will take measurements of the grading around the entire system, including breakout grading, top of system, top of D-box, top of tank, at all corners of the house and where the pipe exits the house.

(d) Stabilization of area.

[1] The installer, upon approval to proceed, will stabilize the entire system area to prevent erosion and keep the system area free from any and all trees, debris or rocks of any size. During the growing season acceptable methods of stabilization shall be loaming and seeding or the laying of sod. If the growing season has passed, the acceptable method of temporary stabilization shall be the use of matting and hay on the entire system until final placement of loam and seed or sod in the spring. In areas that have a greater than 3 to 1 slope, environmental matting will be used to ensure slope stability while the growing process continues. The installer will be responsible for any earth settling that may occur and will repair as needed.

[2] Any deviation from the above methods of stabilization must get approval from the Board of Health or its agent prior to the signing off of a certificate of compliance.

(5) Calls for inspections by the Board of Health will be as follows:

(a) All requests for inspections will go through the Board of Health office. This is true for all inspections.

(b) All inspections will require a forty-eight-hour notice.

(c) Once the inspection has been performed the installer will be notified of the results and may proceed once approved.

(d) All reinspections will require a notice to the Board of Health, and new inspection fees will be required.

- (e) Any installer who proceeds with installation of the system at any stage without notice from the Board of Health or its agent will be subject to license revocation. In addition, any work performed will be subject to removal and replacement.
- (6) A copy of the approved design plan must be left on site in a location where the Board of Health agent may have access to it.
- (7) After the system has been covered the installer shall place caution tape around the entire system to ensure no construction vehicles pass over the system.
- (8) Title 5 states that systems will not be constructed in frozen ground. If temperatures during the winter months drop below freezing at night then the Board of Health or its Agent may place a moratorium in effect until the temperature rises above the freezing point.

F. Reserved for repair procedures.

- (1) All repairs shall be consistent with 310 CMR 15.00, Title 5, and the regulations of the Northbridge Board of Health. All repairs must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Health Agent.
- (2) Any disturbance within the area of the subsurface sewage disposal system shall be considered a repair and shall require Board of Health approval. All necessary permits and fees shall apply.
- (3) The definition of repair shall include but not be limited to the replacement of system components, i.e., septic tank, distribution box, soil absorption system. The pumping of a tank or leach pit or the installation of baffles or a riser in conjunction with a Title 5 inspection shall not be included in this definition.

G. Engineer's as-built plans.

- (1) Once the system has been inspected and covered, the, design engineer will forward to the Board of Health an as-built plan for review and approval by the Board of Health Agent. For review purposes four copies of the as-built plan will be submitted superimposed on the approved design plan showing location and elevation of the system as it is constructed. Review will include groundwater offset and slope constructed. Review will include groundwater offset and slope breakout as well as proximity to testing. All as-built submittals will show the following information, all of which will be shown in red ink:
  - (a) Location of the septic system as it appears in the field shown on the design plan.
  - (b) All proposed and as-built elevations, including sill.

- (c) All grading and spot grades in conjunction with Subsection E(4)(c) above.
  - (d) Swing ties from house corners to tank and D-box, and ends of leaching system.
  - (e) Well location and distance from tank and system.
  - (f) All other wells within 200 feet.
  - (g) Inspection dates and who was present for engineer.
  - (h) Location of house referencing mortgage plot plan and showing as-built footprint.
  - (i) Show field footprint of house.
- (2) The design engineer shall be required to submit four copies of the engineering as-built certification form and certificate of compliance form along with four sets of the as-built plan to the Board of Health for approval.

A. Installer's certificate.

- (1) The licensed installer will submit the installer as-built certification form with all data required. The Board of Health Agent will not sign the certificate of compliance without this information.
- (2) The certificate will have at least one dated copy of the origin of the gravel and sand (and clay, if applicable) used in the construction of the system.
- (3) Certification by the operator of gravel/sand pit where the sand fill material originated that the sand fill material is in compliance with DEP-Title 5 specifications must be provided by the installer to the Board of Health prior to issuance of the Certificate of Compliance. Certification shall be dated no greater than 60 days prior to the issuance of the Disposal Works Construction Permit to construct system. (Added 7-1-2007)

B. Component replacement procedures.

- (1) 310 CMR 15.404(1) allows for replacement of a particular component should a system fail a Title 5 inspection. When replacement is requested other than during a Title 5 inspection, the applicant must seek Board of Health approval.
- (2) The replacement of a steel tank or unsuitable concrete tank and/or distribution box may be made without an engineer by a licensed installer. The installer is required to take out a disposal works construction permit in the Board of Health office and submit the proper application and fees for the inspection of the component replacement. The installer will also be required to sign the component certificate of compliance. All tank replacements shall be at a minimum a 1500-gallon 2-compartment tank. (**Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011**)

- (3) For systems which were constructed prior to 1978 or for systems for which exists no record, the soil absorption system (leaching facility) will not be allowed to be replaced without proper soils testing and designs.
- (4) For systems constructed after 1978 which have approved plans and are only failed due to a clogged biomat, then replacement may be made by a licensed installer. The installer will be required to have an engineer submit an as-built plan showing elevations and location of the system. Prior to a permit being allowed for replacement a report stating the cause of the failure must be submitted by an engineer to the Board of Health.
- (5) Once a permit is allowed for any component replacement, normal inspection procedures will be followed and a component certificate of compliance must be completed, signed and submitted to the Board of Health for approval.
- (6) For soil absorption system replacements the certificate of compliance will not be considered complete until the submission of both the installer as-built certification and the engineering as-built certification forms.

J. Certificate of compliance.

- (1) A new individual sewage disposal system and alteration or repairs to an existing individual system shall not be placed in service, nor shall new buildings or dwellings or additions thereto which must rely on individual sewage disposal systems for sewage disposal be occupied, until the Board of Health has issued a certificate of compliance indicating that said disposal system has been located, constructed, altered or repaired in compliance with the of the permit and the requirements of Title 5 and these rules and regulations.
- (2) The certificate of compliance is the last document to be signed in the approval process. Once the design engineer and installer have submitted their as-built plans and installation certificates, they must then sign the certificate of compliance. Please note that if the as-built plans have been submitted and approved and the installation certification has been submitted, but either the design engineer and/or installer have not signed the certificate of compliance, then the Board of Health Agent cannot sign off on this certificate of compliance.
- (3) The Board of Health Agent will only sign the certificate of compliance after all system components have been inspected (including final grading and stabilization) and the design engineer and installer sign the form first.
- (4) It is the owner/applicant's responsibility to see that he/she has all signatures necessary and that all documents are received in the Board of Health office well in advance of any

real estate closing date. It will not be the responsibility of the Board of Health or its agent to review as-built plans to ensure a closing date.

- (5) All designers/installers are to fill out the required certificate of compliance as-built requirement form and submit four copies to the Board of Health.

K. Wetlands and floodplains.

- (1) No disposal facility shall be closer 50 feet to watercourses or wetlands. (**Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011**)
- (2) The applicant should be aware of his obligations to comply with the requirements established by the Division of Water Pollution Control pursuant to MGL C. 21, § 43, and the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL, C. 131, § 40.

L. Local upgrade and state variance procedures.

- (1) Plans requiring a state variance or local upgrade using the provisions of 310 CMR 15.401 through 15.422 must be accompanied by a letter requesting the variance and/or upgrade. The section numbers, subparagraphs and the reason for the request must be clearly noted in the letter and filed with the local Board of Health. It will be the responsibility of the applicant and/or his engineer to file the request with the DEP. All requests shall be shown on the proposed design plan.
- (2) Local upgrades and variances will not be granted for new construction.
- (3) Plans requiring a local upgrade must be submitted upon the approved DEP form with abutter notification when required. The applicant must notify the abutter by certified mail at least 10 days prior to the Board of Health meeting at which the variance/upgrade request will be on the agenda. The applicant is responsible for obtaining an abutter's list from the Assessor's office and is also responsible for mailing fees. Proof of notification (certified return receipts) must be submitted to the Board prior to the scheduled meeting date.
- (4) More than one upgrade request will result in the need for a state variance when requesting a three-foot offset to groundwater. All requests shall be shown on the proposed plan.
- (5) State variances are required when the proposed system cannot be designed in full compliance with the code or by granting local upgrade provisions. The Board of Health must approve or deny the variance. This decision must be in writing.
- (6) A public hearing, when required, shall be held on all requests for state variance and local upgrades. The Board of Health office shall notify the applicant's engineer of the date and time of the hearing. No public hearing will be scheduled until a plan has been

approved by the Board of Health Agent. An approved plan by the Agent is for technical review only and does not imply Board of Health approval.

- (7) Voluntary upgrades of systems not in failure shall be required to comply fully with 310 CMR 15.00.
- (8) In the case of a Title 5 variance request, notice of the grant of each variance and date issued must be filed with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by the design engineer.
- (9) The DEP shall, within 30 days of receipt of the notice, approve, disapprove or modify the variance. If the DEP fails to comment within 30 days, approval shall be presumed.
- (10) No work may be done under any Title 5 variance until the DEP approves it or until 30 days have elapsed without DEP comment, unless the Board of Health certifies, in writing, that an emergency exists.
- (11) Any variance granted under Title 5 might later be modified, suspended, revoked or allowed to expire by the Board of Health or DEP. This action may apply to the entire variance or a section thereof. Before any action may be taken, however, the holder of the variance must be notified, in writing, and given the opportunity to request a hearing.
- (12) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Board of Health or DEP may seek relief by appealing within 30 days in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the commonwealth.

M. Extensions: percolation/soils evaluation results.

- (1) Applications for extensions of percolation and soil evaluations require a request for extension to be filed at the Board of Health office with the appropriate fee in order to be considered by Board of Health at its next scheduled meeting.
- (2) Criteria for extensions:
  - (a) The testing to be extended must have been performed after March 31, 1995, and certified by an approved soils evaluator.
  - (b) The applicant or their agent must apply for the extension prior to the expiration of the first two-year period. This is solely the responsibility of the applicant and their agent.
  - (c) The Board of Health agent will perform a site investigation to determine if any topographical changes or excavations have occurred since the completed soils testing was finished.



- (d) If requested after the Board of Health Agent's inspection, the application for extension must be accompanied with an engineer's sketch (need not be to scale), showing the location of the testing (using offset ties) and the elevations of the site (showing benchmarks). Sketch must be legible.
- (3) The Board of Health Agent, upon visual inspection of the site, shall notify the Board of Health of the findings. The Board of Health reserves the right to approve or deny the request for extension.

Periods of extension will be granted for a two-year period. Each subsequent extension will also be for a two-year period.

An extension of the soil evaluation is not required when the sewage disposal plan approval is on file with the Board of Health unless the periods of extension for the plan have been exhausted, then a soils evaluation extension request prior to the expiration of the plan approval would be required. **(Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011)**

N. Extensions: approved septic system design plans.

- (1) Applications for extensions of approved septic system design plans require a request for extension to be filed at the Board of Health office with the appropriate fee in order to be considered by the Board of Health at its next scheduled meeting. A new application for disposal works construction permit shall also be filed with the request for extension.
- (2) Criteria for extensions:
  - (a) The testing to be extended must have been performed after March 31, 1995.
  - (b) The applicant or their agent must apply for the extension prior to the expiration of the first three-year period. This is solely the responsibility of the applicant and their agent.
  - (c) The Board of Health Agent will perform a site investigation to determine if any topographical changes or excavations have occurred since the completed soils testing was finished.
- (3) The Board of Health Agent, upon visual inspection of the site, shall notify the Board of Health of the findings. The Board of Health reserves the right to approve or deny the request for extension.
- (4) Periods of extension may be granted for a one-year period only. **(Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011)**
- (5) If construction of the sewage disposal system has not commenced prior to the expiration of all extensions received, it will be necessary for the applicant/owner to

apply for an extension of the soils evaluation. If approved, new sewage disposal plans in compliance with current Title 5 regulations will need to be submitted for approval utilizing the soils evaluation on file. If the soils evaluation extension request is denied, then a new soils evaluation will be required and a new sewage disposal plan in compliance with current title 5 regulations will be required. **(Amended 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011)**

O. Septage hauler permits.

- (1) No person shall engage in the pumping of a septic system or the hauling of septic waste without first obtaining a septage hauler permit from the Board of Health.
- (2) The appropriate fee and certificate of insurance in the amount of \$100,000 to \$300,000 general liability must accompany all applications for septage hauler permits.
- (3) All septage haulers licensed by the Board of Health must submit a copy of the pumping slip for those systems pumped within the Town of Northbridge. These slips must include street address, owner of property and amount of sewerage collected and where disposed, and date of collection. These slips are due within days of the actual date of pumping.

P. Building Permit Considerations (other than new construction) **(Added 10-24-2011; Effective 12-01-2011)**

- (1) All building permit applications which require an expansion or upgrade to the on-site sewage disposal system or where a connection to municipal sewer is proposed to accommodate the additional flow shall be required to be upgraded prior to Board of Health approval of the building permit application.
- (2) Above ground pools shall be set back a minimum of 10-feet from both the septic tank and the sewage disposal system.
- (3) When a Bedroom-Count Deed Restriction is deemed necessary by the Board of Health, the Deed Restriction shall be recorded at the Registry of Deeds prior to Board of Health approval of the building permit application.

