



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

September 14, 2009

Bruce Devillier
General Manager
Hide-A-Way Lake Subdivision
P.O. Box 1011
Picayune, Ms 39466-1011

Re: Existing Individual On-site Wastewater Disposal Systems (IOWDS) in *Hide-A-Way Lake* Subdivision

Dear Mr. Devillier:

The Mississippi State Department of Health has previously allowed functioning Individual On-site Wastewater Disposal Systems (IOWDS) to co-exist with an available central collection disposal line. We find no reason why this type of arrangement would not be acceptable for the *Hide-A-Way Lake* Subdivision as long as it is known how the Department determines a “malfunction”, “failure” or “functioning” system. If a malfunction or a failure describes the wastewater system, it will allow for abandonment and an immediate connection to the central collection, not correct as a repair. Any Individual On-site Wastewater Disposal System or component part that fails to operate as intended or not in compliance with Regulation or State Law is considered a malfunction.

A failure is a breakage, weakness, or defect that causes a malfunction in the treatment, distribution, disposal, or dispersal of effluent into the soil absorption field, or that causes a wash-out or disruption of the effluent disposal field as evidenced by:

- Surfacing or ponding of effluent as, over or around any component.
- Backing up of sewage within the residence or establishment due to hydraulic conditions in the soil.
- Contamination of ground or surface waters.

Functioning is defined as an IOWDS that has no hydraulically overloaded soil conditions, seepage or discharge to the surface of the property of the generator.

Once a central collection disposal line is installed and available, it is most important that the residents that have problems with their Individual On-site Wastewater Disposal System be required to connect to the central system. We would encourage everyone to connect to this system, because *centralized collection is the only long term solution for residents of the Hide-A-Way Lake Subdivision.*

As mentioned previously, our main concern is over the process where an existing Individual On-site Wastewater Disposal System would be considered functioning. For example:



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2

- No effluent discharge off the property of the generator.
No effluent from an IOWDS will be accepted or approved that discharges off the property of the generator. In Policy (which we do not enforce, only Regulations and Law) states that IF a homeowner has the original copy of our approval then we could accept the existing system, if requested.
- No effluent from an underground type system seeping to the surface.
The homeowner can repair his/her "Conventional" gravity-fed wastewater system only. Others repairs must be performed by the Certified Installer and/or a Certified Maintenance Provider, if "Advanced" or "Alternate" Treatment.

The Mississippi State Department of Health would like to be involved in the process by offering our training program to your current on-site maintenance staff and/or evaluating sites through our Notice of Intent and/or existing application process.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Shultis".

Charles Shultis
Director, Division of Onsite Wastewater

Cc: Pansy Maddox
Jim Weston
Mike Rester