

Name of Practice: CONNECTION OF MALFUNCTIONING ONSITE SEWAGE
SYSTEM OR STRAIGHT PIPE TO PUBLIC SEWER
DEQ Specifications for No. RB-2

A. Description

Connecting a residence to an existing sewer line to eliminate a malfunctioning onsite sewage system, an identified straight pipe, or a system not VDH-approved that can potentially impact water quality. A malfunctioning system could be contributing raw or partially treated sewage on the ground's surface, or resulting in a direct source of sewage to adjacent ditches, or waterways, or ground water. A straight pipe can potentially deliver sewage directly to a stream, pond, lake, or river.

B. Purpose

To improve water quality by removing raw or partially treated sewage on the land surface that can enter surface water or ground water during storm events, or sewage that is a direct source of contamination to surface water or ground water. Sewage means water-carried and non-water-carried human excrement; kitchen, laundry, shower, bath, or lavatory wastes separately, or together.

C. Policies

1. Cost-share is authorized:
 - a. For the connection fee, which is the fee allowing the dwelling to be connected to the public sewer system. This fee may be referred to as a tap fee.
 - b. For the construction cost associated with connecting the dwelling to a sewer line. This cost is the expenses to pipe the waste from the dwelling to the sewer connection point.
 - c. To re-stabilize and establish a vegetative cover on disturbed areas by planting seed.
 - d. For the abandonment of the septic tank by a septic tank contractor or plumber.
2. A distance from the public sewer that would make this practice technically feasible is generally specified by the local government or public sewer authority. This cost-share practice is the preferred practice for replacing failing septic systems where sewer connections can be made.

3. Disturbed areas need to be stabilized by planting seed in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Standard and Specifications 3.31 (Permanent Seeding) and Specification 3.35 (Mulching). For slopes of 3:1 or greater use 3.36 (Blankets and Matting).
4. Septic tank abandonment should be performed by a septic tank contractor or plumber. The septic tank is pumped out, tank lids are crushed and dumped in tank, and the tank is filled with sand or other suitable material.
5. Proper permitting and inspections need to be adhered to in accordance with local and state regulations. Local permit fees are an eligible expense for cost-share.
6. Cost-share is not authorized under this practice for the repair of defective sewer laterals.

D. Rate

The cost-share amount will not exceed 50% to 75% of the total eligible cost based on income levels in accordance with *Program Design and Guidelines, TMDL - Cost-Share Assistance Program for On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems*. The cost-share payment at 50% cost-share shall not exceed \$4,500, \$5,400 at 60% cost-share, \$6,300 at 70% cost-share, and \$6,750 at 75% cost-share

Revised June 2015