

REPLACEMENT OF MALFUNCTIONING ONSITE SEWAGE
SYSTEM OR STRAIGHT PIPE WITH CONNECTION TO PUBLIC SEWER
DEQ Specifications for No. RB-2

This document specifies terms and conditions that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to the *Replacement of Malfunctioning Onsite Sewage System or Straight Pipe with Connection to Public Sewer* best management practice (BMP) in NPS implementation areas.

A. Description

Connecting a residence to an existing sewer line to eliminate a malfunctioning onsite sewage system, an identified non-complying discharging system (e.g., 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, waterways, or groundwater. A straight pipe can potentially deliver sewage directly to a stream, pond, lake, or river. Sewage refers to water-carried or non-water-carried human excrement, kitchen, laundry, shower, bath, or lavatory wastes separately or together with such underground, surface, stormwater, or liquid waste as may be present from a residence. Gray water may also be connected to public sewer via this BMP, but only if in addition to work that connects a residence to an existing sewer line as a replacement of a malfunctioning onsite sewage system or a straight pipe.

B. Purpose

To improve water quality by removing raw or partially treated sewage on the land surface that can enter surface water or groundwater during storm events or sewage that is a direct source of contamination to surface water or groundwater.

C. Policies and Specifications

1. Cost-share is authorized:
 - i. For the connection fee. This is the fee allowing the dwelling to be connected to the public sewer system. This fee may be referred to as a tap fee.
 - ii. For the construction cost associated with a gravity connection of a dwelling to an existing sewer line. This cost is the expense to pipe the waste from the dwelling to the sewer connection point adjacent to property boundary. This does not include the extension of any sewer lines to the property boundary, including extension of a sewer mainline or "trunk" line, but does allow for a lateral connection to the main line adjacent to the property boundary from the home.
 - iii. Gray water (from an identified non-complying discharging system, e.g., straight pipe), often considered kitchen, laundry, shower, or bath water, is considered sewage. If gray water is not connected to an onsite sewage system, this is a source eligible for connection, but only during the repair or replacement of a failing or failed onsite system. Gray water connections to public sewer independent of connections to replace a malfunctioning septic system (conventional or alternative) or straight pipe do not qualify. Costs can include the connection of gray water discharge from a dwelling that is discharging on the ground or in a wet/dry ditch to the existing system that will then be connected to public sewer.

Any plumbing or equipment that is needed inside the dwelling to make the gray water connection to the system is not eligible for cost-share.

- iv. To re-stabilize and establish a vegetative cover on disturbed areas by regrading and planting seed as appropriate. 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).
 - v. For the abandonment of the septic tank by a licensed septic contractor. Septic tank abandonment should be performed by a licensed septic contractor. Proper abandonment includes pumping and proper disposal of the tank contents, crushing the tank lids or top into the tank, breaking the bottom of the tank so it doesn't hold water, filling it with sand or other suitable fill material and restoring the area to its original condition.
2. A distance from the public sewer that would make this practice technically feasible or cost-effective 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. Proper permitting and inspections must be adhered to in accordance with local and state regulations. Local permit fees are an eligible expense for cost-share.
 4. VDH must be notified that the sewage system has been taken out of operation and connected to a public sewer with a request that the system be updated in the VDH database.
 5. Cost-share is not authorized under this practice for the repair of defective sewer laterals, nor is it authorized for mainline sewer extensions or extension of sewer lines to a line adjacent to the property boundary.
 6. "Assignment of On-site Sewage System Practices Cost-share Payment Authorization" and "Agreement Transferring Responsibility for Best Management Practice" forms for this practice are attached to the Residential Septic Guidelines.
 7. The lifespan for this practice is 10 years. The period of lifespan starts on January 1 of the calendar year following the year of installation of the practice.

D. Rate(s)

The cost-share amount is based upon a total average estimated practice cost of \$11,000 per practice and will not exceed 50% to 90% of the total eligible cost based on participant income levels (based upon verification) in accordance with *Virginia's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Implementation Best Management Practice (BMP) Guidelines*. The cost-share payment for this practice shall not exceed the BMP estimated average total cost-share cost, known as the practice cap, associated with the approved cost-share rate for the participant.

A Grantee will request from DEQ the ability to use either the No Fiscal Stress or Fiscal Stress table (see Table RB-2 on the next page):

Table RB-2: Connection to Public Sewer, rates based upon average total practice cost of \$11,000.

% of Median Family Income	No Fiscal Stress* Rate	No Fiscal Stress* CS Cap	Fiscal Stress** Rate	Fiscal Stress** CS Cap
> 120% or no income verification	50%	\$5,500	50%	\$5,500
100-120%	55%	\$6,050	65%	\$7,150
81-100%	60%	\$6,600	70%	\$7,700
61-80%	65%	\$7,150	75%	\$8,250
40-60%	75%	\$8,250	85%	\$9,350
<40%	80%	\$8,800	90%	\$9,900

* Located in locality with No Fiscal Stress (average, below average, or no FS)

** Located in Locality with Fiscal Stress (high or above average FS)

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