

**REGULATION #0859-98  
ON SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL  
SYSTEMS**

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PURPOSE: To adopt standards to be used by Residents and Contractors in the construction and operation of on site wastewater treatment and disposal systems.

Wapello County has adopted Iowa Administrative Code 567, Chapter69, in its entirety with the modifications and additions stated below.

**S1 DEFINITIONS**

For use in this Regulation the following terms are defined:

1. "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources
2. "Nuisance" means whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or offensive to the senses or an obstacle to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property. This shall include all definitions in Section 657.2 of the Code of Iowa
3. "Public Sewer" means a wastewater treatment and disposal facility owned and operated by a corporate public entity such as a city or sanitary sewer district.
4. "Reconstruction" means the action of reconstructing; i.e., the act of constructing again; re-establishing; reassembling.
5. All terms defined in Chapter 69 of the Iowa Administrative Code 567 shall be defined the same for these regulations

**S2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Permit Required.** No person shall begin construction or reconstruction of any on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system for any purpose in the County without first having obtained a permit as set out in this chapter. The permit for installation or alteration of the on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system shall be obtained prior to the construction of any dwelling or building to be served by this system.

**2. Testing of effluent from all Sand Filters and Mechanic Aerobic Systems**

Per Iowa Department of Natural Resources, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Discharge Permit #4. For Discharge from On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems

**3. Update of Failed System.** In the event an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system should fail, or otherwise be found to cause a nuisance, and a public sanitary sewer is not available, said system shall be made to conform to these regulations.

**S3 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Permit Application.** Any person desiring a permit must file with the Wapello County Engineer an application stating the owner's name, property address, phone number, and other information as required on the most current application form available at the office of the Wapello County Engineers

**2. Percolation Test Required:** Application for a permit to construct, reconstruct or alter a private subsurface absorption (lateral) field in the County shall also include the results of a **soil percolation test and design of a Soil Absorption System must be certified by a licensed professional engineer.** Wapello County requires a three-hole percolation test so as to be more representative of the proposed lateral field. Also an additional test hole 6 feet in depth or to rock whichever occurs first shall be provided in the center of the proposed absorption

area to determine the location of ground water or rock formations. This six foot test hole may be augured the same size as the percolation test holes or made with a soil probe.

**3. Drawings Required.** The application must also include an accurate drawing of the property with dimensions showing the dwelling served. The location of any wells on the property, or the location of any wells on neighboring property within 100 feet of the system. As well as the proposed system to be installed. Any deviation from the plans or specifications appearing on the application must be approved by the County Engineer's Office.

**4. Fee Requirement.** Upon written approval of the application by the Wapello County Zoning Department, the signed permit will be issued upon payment of the required applicable fees made payable to the Wapello County Treasurer.

**5. Permit Fees:** Will be established by resolution of the Wapello County Board of Supervisors

**6. Valid Period:** Permits shall be valid for a maximum of twelve (12) months from the time of issuance, during which time the on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system shall be completed.

**S4 INSPECTION**

**1. Notification:** The Wapello County Zoning Department shall be notified orally by telephone, or in person, six (6) hours, before the work is to be inspected or tested. Inspections must be confirmed by the Wapello County Zoning Department and will be done only during normal office hours.

**2. Inspection:** No part of any private on site waste water disposal system shall be used, covered or constructed so as to deny inspection by the Wapello County Zoning Department.

**3. Drawing Required:** When the on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system has been completed, an accurate drawing must be completed by the person installing the system and submitted to the Wapello County Zoning Department. The drawing must show the exact layout of the septic tank, all distribution boxes the secondary treatment system, and location of the structure to be served by the system. Dimensions from two (2) corners of the structure or other permanent landmark to the center of the septic tank(s) and center of the distribution box(s) shall be provided. The location of all wells within 100 feet of the system must also be shown. A copy of such drawing shall be provided to the owner.

**S5 Appeal**

Any person who feels aggrieved by any notice or order made by the Wapello County Zoning Department or Sanitarian shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Health at the next regular meeting

These rules shall be in effect after passage, approval and publication as provided by law, and shall be a part of the "Wapello County, Iowa, Zoning Ordinance", effective May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1992

Passed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1998

Published this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1998

Original signed and dated, on file in the Wapello County Engineers/Zoning Administrators Office