

Key Points: Isle of Wight County Septic Pump-Out Program

1) Role of County:

- i) Develop and maintain a septic pump-out database to document affected septic systems and serve as a tracking mechanism.
- ii) Administer the Septic Pump-Out Program through the Department of Planning and Zoning. This may include public education, direct mailings, information posted on the County's Internet web site, and enforcement of the Septic Pump-Out Program.
- iii) Notify property owners when septic pump-outs are due.
- iv) Make periodic mailings of Registration and Compliance forms to be filled out and submitted by affected property owners.
- v) Perform other homeowner education and outreach as deemed appropriate.

2) Role of Property Owners:

- i) Complete and submit Septic Pump-Out Registration and Compliance forms to the County when requested to do so.
- ii) Make arrangements for and pay the costs of septic tank pump-outs based on the schedule presented by the County and as required under the Septic Pump-Out Program.

3) **Septic Pump-Outs:** In general, pump-outs must occur once every five (5) years. If on-site septic systems are equipped with effluent filters, then pump-outs must occur once every seven (7) years.

4) **Exemptions:** Situations exempt from the septic pump-out requirement include any inactive or abandoned on-site septic system. To qualify for exemption, property owners must provide the County with appropriate, written verification.

5) **Enforcement:** The Zoning Administrator, or authorized designee, is responsible for administering and enforcing the Septic Pump-Out Program. The Zoning Administrator shall seek criminal or civil enforcement for any provision of this program and take any action on behalf of the County to prevent or abate any violation or potential violation of this program.

6) **Penalties:** Upon finding by an appropriate circuit court, violators can be fined up to \$5,000 for each day of violation. As an alternative to court-imposed fines, violators may be offered the option of a onetime payment of civil charges for each violation in specific sums, up to \$10,000 for each violation, as determined by the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors.

- 7) **Complaints and Appeals:** Written complaints about the Septic Pump-Out Program should first be directed to the Zoning Administrator. Anyone who continues to feel aggrieved by the program, or any decisions made by Zoning Administrator, may make written appeals to the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors. Further appeals may be made by petitioning the Circuit Court of Isle of Wight County within 30 days after the final decision by the Board of Supervisors.