

Proposed Septic Rules for the Town of Sunapee
Final 1-25-23

Authority: Health Officers

NH RSA 147:10 grants municipal health officers, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen (NH RSA 147:1), authority to adopt regulations that will ensure that wastewater disposal systems shall not be a nuisance or injurious to public health.

General Purpose and Intent

- 1) Protect the quality of the surface waters of Lake Sunapee, which is the major public water supply for the Town of Sunapee
- 2) Protect the quality of ground water in the lakes, ponds and Sugar River in the Town of Sunapee
- 3) Protect public health through prevention of human contact with sewage and related pathogens
- 4) Prevent increased nitrogen and phosphorus accumulations and related pathogens from entering the lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and aquifer recharge areas
- 5) Provide a proactive approach towards septic systems posing higher risk and significance of failure within the Shoreland Overlay District.

Reference & Definitions

All terms used herein shall have the same definitions as found in State regulations and references based on Chapter Env-Wq 1000 “Subdivisions; Individual Sewage Disposal Systems” with Statutory Authority RSA 485-A:6, latest effective date Oct. 1, 2016 or most recent.

Applicability

These regulations apply to all sewage disposal systems on private septic system located wholly, or part within the Shoreline Overlay District, (within 250 feet of lakes & ponds over 10 acres in size and fourth order streams) as well as all commercial food preparation facilities within the entire Town of Sunapee on a septic system.

Septic Tank Pumping

All septic tanks to be pumped on the following schedule:

All developed properties with septic systems in the Shoreline Overlay District in the Town of Sunapee shall be pumped a minimum of once every three years.

In cases where a septic tank or pump chamber has not been pumped out in the three years prior to the adoption of this regulation, such systems shall be pumped out within one year of the effective date of this regulation.

Exceptions

Exceptions to these regulations are to be determined by the Town Selectboard or its designee.

Holding Tank Exception: Properties that have a ‘holding tank’ system, shall abide by the NHDES regulations, which currently require the holding tank to be pumped when the tank is at 80% capacity.

Grease Trap Exception: All commercial Food preparation facilities within the Town of Sunapee, on a septic system are required to have a grease trap system installed. All grease trap systems must be pumped per manufacturer’s or service providers recommendation but no less than twice a year.

Owners of Residential properties occupied by 2 or fewer persons and owners of properties used on a strictly seasonal use may apply to the Board of Selectmen, or designee, for a waiver of the 3 year requirement. In no case shall a septic tank be pumped less often than once every 6 years.

Waivers shall not be granted for commercial or any type of Short Term Rental (STR) properties.

The Health Officer shall maintain a list of approved proprietary Innovative/Alternative Technology (ITA) septic systems as defined in NHDES Env-Wq1024. Such systems shall be pumped out, inspected and maintained at a frequency specified by the ITA manufacturer. The Health Officer may also request inspection records from the manufacturers of the ITA systems.

Sale of property within Shoreland Overlay District

When a developed waterfront property is sold or transferred, a copy of the **Waterfront Property Site Assessment Study required by NHDES Env-Wq 1025 regulations** must be submitted to the Town either by the seller or their Agent within 10 days of the sale of property.

Adoption

- A) These regulations shall be administered by the Code Enforcement Officer and/or Health Officer or by such person as the Board of Selectmen may designate. Any person willfully violating these regulations shall be guilty of a violation.

- B) Prior to the effective date of this regulation, the owners of all affected properties shall be provided with a written notice of the requirements of these regulations.

- C) Property owners who have had their septic tanks pumped within 3 years prior to the effective date of this regulation shall provide the Health Officer, or designee, with documentation of such pumping, failing which it, shall be presumed that the septic tank pumped has not been pumped within 3 years prior to the effective date of this regulation.

- D) Property owners who have had their septic tank/ holding tank/ grease trap pumped out after the effective date of this regulation shall provide the Health Officer or designee with documentation of the pumping, including receipts from the Company that did the pumping, and the approximate gallons of septage pumped. Such information shall be provided within 10 days of the pumping.

Douglas Gamsby
Health Officer, Town of Sunapee