

**Clark County OSS  
Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2010**

**I. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF APRIL 7, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Tom Gonzales opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The following people were present: Basil Rotschy, Mark Collier, Mike Williams, Cory McNair, Pete Roberts, Matt Wiard, Nathan Ek, Brannon Lamp, Carla Sowder, Mark Hill, Steve Keirn, Tom Gonzales and Debbie Aultman.

April 7, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were reviewed and corrected to read:  
“**V. Leaking Septic Tank Challenges (Identified during O&M inspections)**  
Definition of a Leaking Tank: A septic tank that is leaking effluent at a rate of 1” per 24 hours height within the tank or 20 gallons in volume in 24 hours.”

**Action:** April 7, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved with correction.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was reviewed and at Basil Rotschy’s request revised to add “As-built drawings recorded timely on-line” to Item #8, Other.

**Action:** July 14, 2010 OSS TAC Meeting Agenda unanimously approved with addition.

**III. HAZARDOUS WASTE IN SEPTIC SYSTEMS PRESENTATION**

Tom introduced Bryan DeDoncker, EHS Specialist with Environmental Public Health’s Site Hazard Assessment Program. Bryan gave a power point presentation on hazardous waste in septic tanks. In Clark and Pierce counties, 87 commercial sites on septic systems have been sampled for hazardous waste, of these, 19 have been contaminated with dangerous waste. Cleanup of these sites is very expensive, including decontaminating the system and drainfield, disposal of the dangerous waste, and automatic connection to sewer if available. In addition, Bryan indicated a septage hauler who has pumped a system of hazardous waste becomes a liable party upon disposal of the waste, as well as incurring the expense of decontaminating his vehicle. Bryan told the members that he will give this same presentation to the O&M specialists on August 3.

**IV. Annual Review of Policy EPH014 – OSS O&M Deficiency**

1. Critical Deficiency Update for OnlineRME  
Added non-functioning Ultra Violet bulbs to the critical deficiency list.
2. Metal Septic Tanks - Steve raised the question regarding old metal tanks that present an obvious safety hazard and most likely their lids are corroded. Metal tank lids

become corroded causing a safety factor. Tom will inform the O&M Specialists to disclose metal tank construction on onlineRME.com in the comment field. If the tank is a safety hazard the O&M specialist should cite this as a deficiency under tank components.

## V. Operation & Maintenance Update

Mark Hill gave the following update:

1. Critical Deficiency Reporting
  - a. 550 inspections reported for July
  - b. Critical deficiencies reported at 4%
  - c. All deficiencies reported at 33 %
2. Tom reviewed the following information:
  - a. 740 of 3000 Pressure Distribution systems are past due. Past due letters were sent to the 740 PD owners. O&M Brochure was included with letter
  - d. ATU's owners in Yacolt were sent past due letters, also.
3. Tom indicated that CCPH is working with GIS and local public sewer agencies to get updated information on properties connected to septic systems and sewer systems in Clark County. This process was initiated in February of 2009. From all this hard work, approximately 7100 properties with a structural value of  $\geq$ \$30,000 were identified as not connected to public sewer and not in CCPH database. CCPH will be sending out questionnaires to parcels to gather wastewater information this fall.
4. Basil noted that some inspectors are adding d-box as a septic component, even if one is not present. He suggested if a d-box is not noted or inspected mark the report as a "partial" inspection.
5. Tom indicated that Online.RME is waiving the \$1.99 fee for follow-up inspections if done within 90 days. O&M specialists are unable to do a partial report on a follow-up inspection. Tom will ask Eric Evans of Online.RME to format a summary report that will link to the original inspection, so that partial reports can be completed.

- Action:**
1. Include d-box inspection to August 3, 2010 O&M Specialist Meeting Agenda
  2. Request Eric Evans to design a follow-up report for Online.RME

## VI. Leaking Septic Tank ad hoc

Tom stated – at the last TAC meeting an ad hoc was arranged to address the Leaking Septic Tank definition and guidance procedures. This group put together a guidance document defining how to test leaking septic tanks. The ad hoc presented the following Guidance Procedures:

- Certified O&M specialists should only test tanks for leakage if they are found to not be at the normal operating level.
- If the tank is determined to be leaking by the above definition then the certified O&M specialist will need to report if a 12 hour test or a 24 hour test was conducted and if the home was occupied or vacant on [www.onlineRME.com](http://www.onlineRME.com).

- Certified pumpers and/or certified O&M specialists need to report leaking tanks encountered in the field within 72 hours to CCPH.

Tom indicated that letters were sent to all O&M Specialists informing them of the new definition. This will be added to the O&M Specialist Manual, Version 2; and distributed at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> O&M Specialist Meeting.

## **VII. Septic Evaluation for Property Ownership Conveyance**

Tom told the members that on occasion, CCPH has been receiving calls requesting septic information (permit, as-built, sizing of system, type of system, and etc.) for properties undergoing transfers of ownership. Tom informed members that he created a document that will provide realtors & buyers information on the OSS that includes record drawing, drainfield, identify the reserve and other pertinent information. Tom is working with Eric Evan to make this process available on onlineRME. The hourly fee will most likely be used to cover costs for researching the information and drafting the facts and finding letter.

## **VIII. Other**

### **1. Public Health Advisory Council Input**

Mark Collier indicated the PHAC is concerned about the budget shortfall and the potential cuts. Mark also stated that he is concerned with increasing OSS fees. Increasing fees may decrease the program's effectiveness. If increases are proposed, they should be reasonable for the economy to bear.

## **IX. NEXT MEETING**

October 6, 2010

Inform Tom of any agenda items you wish to discuss.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Gonzales at 4:57 pm and seconded by Basil Rotschy.

