



Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board

**State of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation**

Policy Statement 2009-03 Applicability of Experience Operating Septic Tanks toward Operator Certification

Background

The department has been requested to consider operation of a septic tank as applicable experience to meet the requirements for a wastewater treatment operator certificate.

Introduction

Several communities have installed common septic tanks as part of the community wastewater system. These systems may be maintained by an organized municipality, a neighborhood association, or a private landowner. Persons who are responsible for maintaining these systems may be interested in accumulating experience toward wastewater certification.

Discussion

Septic tanks are in common use in Alaska for single family dwellings and there are a number that serve several structures. Some small communities have installed community septic tanks, in some cases using grants of state or federal funds.

Septic tank operation does not require specific training or experience. Maintenance and operation of these systems is typically limited to pumping, cleaning, and repair work. This experience is not applicable to the operation of other wastewater treatment systems.

Policy

The department will not consider experience gained in the operation and maintenance of septic tanks as experience toward certification as a wastewater treatment operator. Community septic

tanks are considered part of the collection system and are not to be considered as wastewater treatment processes for the purpose of classification of wastewater treatment facilities or for accumulating experience toward wastewater treatment certification. Operation of wastewater collection systems that include community septic tanks may be considered as experience for the purposes of wastewater collection system certification.

Adopted this twenty-fifth day of June, 2009

/James C. Berg/ James C. Berg

Chair, Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board

*Amended to clarify that the policy refers to septic tanks that are part of a community system.
(Effective 2/21/96 96-T-01; amended 5/8/09 2009-03)*