



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Public Health
Environmental Health
Groundwater & Wastewater Services

April 12, 2005

Policy Adoption for Permitting Septic Tank Systems That Utilize an Effluent Pump/s.

Over the past several months it has become apparent that there are several issues related to septic tank systems with effluent pumps that need to be addressed. Information received by performing routine maintenance inspections indicates that a large percentage of septic tank systems with effluent pumps have pump control and alarm floats that are not properly secured inside the pump tank.

At the present time, many of our registered septic contractors are securing control floats directly to the discharge piping. In cases where floats connected directly to the discharge piping become unsecured it is difficult to reconnect them at their proper level without either entering the pump tank or removing the effluent pump from the tank. In an effort to simplify float repair and adjustment procedures a **float tree** shall be installed on all systems using an effluent pump.

Follow-up inspections have revealed that control floats secured with plastic zip-ties are failing in many cases. These fasteners are convenient for contractors but over time they become brittle and break due to the corrosive environment inside the pump tank. Floats connected with electrical tape exhibit the same problems as floats secured with zip-ties. In an effort to prevent fastener failure control floats shall be secured to a float tree using one **stainless steel hose clamp** for each float installed.

To ensure that the float tree can be easily removed from the pump tank, the installer should leave enough wiring inside the tank to allow for complete removal of the float tree without having to disconnect any electrical connections for the system.

A "Typical Pump Tank Detail" sheet is being included with the document for reference. Final inspections for all systems using an effluent pump should conform to the drawing shown.

This policy is effective for all permits issued after April 30, 2005.

Prepared By (Print Name)

Date

GWS Program Manager (Print Name)

Date

GWS Program Manager (Signature)