Central District Health Department
Boise, Idaho

Environmental Health

I. Title: Nutrient-Pathogen Study **Policy No: LD-05-01**

II. Objective: The goal of Central District Health Department's (CDHD) Nutrient-Pathogen Study Policy is to continue to meet the intent of Idaho's Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rule, IDAPA 58.01.03, and Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rule, IDAPA 58.01.11. In pursuit of this objective, CDHD may require demonstration that any proposed subsurface sewage disposal system, particularly those proposed within areas of concern, will comply with the above rules. The intent of such demonstration is to document the correct number of proposed sewage systems that may occupy a parcel of land and to adequately document and demonstrate that the proposed system(s) for the site will not impact human health by significantly impacting the quality of ground water and/or surface water within the State of Idaho.

III. Scope: This policy establishes a consistent standard for requiring nutrient-pathogen studies for developments utilizing individual subsurface sewage disposal systems. It also ensures that CDHD staff convey consistent concepts and guidance to clients and others regarding the requirement to perform a nutrient-pathogen study.

IV. Policy Statement: It is the policy of CDHD to require demonstration from developers/applicants who propose subsurface sewage disposal systems for development in areas of concern (IV.B or IV.C) that meet or exceed the limits as stated below (IV.A). CDHD may waive the requirement of conducting a nutrient-pathogen study if the project meets the provisions set forth in (IV.D) below. The demonstration will follow the Nutrient-Pathogen Evaluation Program for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems prepared by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

IV.A. CDHD requires a nutrient-pathogen study for the following types of developments when on-site wastewater treatment systems are proposed and the development is to be built in an area of concern:

1. Platted subdivisions and/or lot splits of five or more splits of an original parcel, as defined by the local city or county planning and zoning authority;
2. Commercial facilities generating 600 gallons or more of wastewater per day; and
3. Lot splits or accessory dwellings in platted subdivisions that result in additional waste water flows not previously evaluated in a nutrient-pathogen study.

IV.B. An "area of concern" is defined as:

1. An area or region where nutrient and/or pathogen contamination exists and has the potential to create a health risk, or
2. An area where soil depth is shallow or there exists a predominance of gravel or other coarse-grained sediment, a shallow depth to the normal high ground water (10 feet or less), or fractured bedrock (10 feet or less).

IV.C. CDHD may also require a nutrient-pathogen study (as prescribed by the DEQ guidance document) on parcels of land where unusual conditions or circumstances give rise to concern about surface and/or ground water quality.

IV.D. The developer may consider suitable alternative on-site wastewater treatment system design and/or increase lot size to better protect surface and/or ground water quality, and may consider application of such designs in lieu of performing a nutrient-pathogen study. **This is in direct conformance with IDAPA 58.01.11. Ground Water Quality Rule.** The following criteria shall be met in order to utilize this option.

1. CDHD will not require a nutrient-pathogen study of proposed subdivisions and/or lot splits as defined in IV.A.1. above, that have a minimum buildable lot size of greater than or equal to two (2) acres, proposing the use of an approved nutrient reducing sewage disposal system achieving an effluent concentration of 16 mg/l or less of total nitrogen.

2. CDHD will not require a nutrient-pathogen study of proposed subdivisions and/or lot splits, as defined in IV.A.1. above, that have a minimum buildable lot size of greater than or equal to three (3) acres, proposing the use of an approved nutrient reducing sewage disposal system achieving an effluent concentration of 27mg/l or less of total nitrogen.

3. CDHD will not require a nutrient-pathogen study of subdivisions and/or lot splits, as defined in IV.A.1. above, that have a minimum buildable lot size of greater than or equal to five (5) acres.

4. CDHD will not require a nutrient-pathogen study for a proposed lot split or an accessory dwelling to be located in a platted subdivision that was not required to conduct a nutrient-pathogen study. However, where the lot split or accessory dwelling results in more than one dwelling unit per five (5) acres, CDHD will require the use of an approved nutrient-reducing system achieving an effluent concentration of 27 mg/l or less of total nitrogen.

V. Procedures: The following process will be followed when a proposal is submitted to CDHD for a subdivision and/or lot splits as defined in IV.A.1. above.

V.A. A pre-development meeting with CDHD must take place if site-specific soil, ground water, or surface water data are to be collected in support of the nutrient-pathogen study. DEQ representatives may also be requested to attend the pre-development meeting.

V.B. If the development is required to conduct a nutrient-pathogen study, two (2) copies shall be submitted to CDHD. CDHD will forward one (1) copy to DEQ for review.

V.C. For subdivisions proposing community, central, or large soil absorption systems, or subdivisions where CDHD is requiring a nutrient-pathogen study that borders permanent or intermittent surface water that is hydraulically connected to ground water, a pre-development meeting must take place between the applicant/consultants, DEQ, and CDHD, prior to any submittal.

V.D. The nutrient-pathogen study will be reviewed by both CDHD and DEQ, with the Land Development Supervisor and/or the Land Development Senior being the primary contact to DEQ.

V.E. Once the nutrient–pathogen study is approved, a letter of approval will be sent to the consultant and developer by CDHD.

V.F. The following note shall be placed on the plat for subdivisions required to utilize nutrient reducing systems. "Central District Health Department requires nutrient reducing systems capable of achieving ___mg/L Total Nitrogen on lots __ through __."

Authorized:

Rob Howarth

Date: 3/2/09

Rob Howarth
Environmental Health Director

Approved:

Date: 3/5/09

Russell A. Duke
Director

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