GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 West Ivy, Suite 1
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Ordinance 2025-03

Whereas the Rules and Regulations of the Grant County Health District Provide Amendments and Additions to WAC 246-272A Regarding On-site Sewage Systems, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Authority

Pursuant to the authority of R.C.W. 70.05.060 (Powers and duties of local board of health.), these regulations are hereby established as minimum requirements of the Grant County Board of Health governing on-site sewage disposal systems.

Section 2. Administration

(1) Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-272A, governs on-site sewage disposal systems as now written or as it may be hereafter amended and this Ordinance supplements those rules.
(2) Where the provisions of Chapter 246-272A and the amendments of this Ordinance conflict; the stricter regulation shall apply.
    a. The Grant County Board of Health adopts in its entirety as a rule and regulation of this Board of Health, the current DOH Departmental Standards and Guidance documents for pressure distribution.
(3) Where the provisions of any local, State, or Federal regulation shall conflict with this Ordinance, the stricter regulation shall apply, with the order of enforcement proceeding from federal, state, then Health District.
(4) Unless an earlier date is specified in this Ordinance, Ordinance 15-1 and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed to be replaced by this Ordinance beginning April 1, 2025.

Section 3. Amends WAC 246-272A-0010 Definitions

"As-Built" means "record drawing".

"Non-restrictive caliche" Refers to a lower soil horizon comprised of calcium carbonate precipitate with sufficient permeability to absorb drain field effluent. Designers may apply a maximum application rate of 0.4 gal./sq. ft./day.

"Denied" means the proposal has been rejected and a new application is needed to proceed with a new permitting process.

"**DOH**" means the Washington State Department of Health.

"Designer" means an individual who designs septic systems such as a licensed septic designer or engineer, and in limited circumstances, a homeowner.

"Fully completed application" means an application that has been accepted by Grant County Health District with proper payment to Grant County Health District and has been presented as complete, including a completed application checklist, by the applicant or the applicant's agent.

"**GCHD"** means Grant County Health District.

"Health Officer" means the Health Officer of Grant County or designee.

"**Local Technical Review Committee**" means 2 or more environmental health specialists employed by the GCHD and certified as Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Inspectors by the WA Department of Licensing. A certified Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Inspector from another local health jurisdiction may be used if there are not 2 certified employees at GCHD at the time of waiver review.

"Installer" means a person approved by the Health Officer to install on-site sewage systems or components.

"Nonpublic drinking water well" means a well that is not a Public Drinking Water Well**.**

"Ordinance" refers to the Grant County Health District ordinance regulating on-site sewage disposal and
treatment.

"OSS" means on-site sewage system.

"Permitted" means the application for an OSS has been approved by an employee of Grant County Health District.

"Pending" means an application status when the proposal has issues that need to be addressed and permitting is not possible until the issues are addressed.

"**Public drinking water well**" means a well serving a public water system as defined by WAC 246-290 for Group A water systems or WAC 246-291 and GCHD Ordinance 23-06 for Group B water systems.

"**Resident owner**" means an individual who is the owner of the property AND who will live in the home to which the OSS is or will be connected.

"**Septic maintenance service provider"** beginning February 1, 2025 means a person approved by the Health Officer to conduct a comprehensive analysis of an OSS by evaluating the condition and functioning of the components of an on-site sewage disposal system.

"**Site registration**" means a report normally prepared on a form provided by the GCHD of the soil and terrain conditions for a lot proposed for installation of an OSS.

"SSAS" means Subsurface soil absorption system. A soil dispersal component of trenches or beds containing either a distribution pipe within a layer of drainrock covered with a geotextile, or an approved gravelless distribution technology, designed and installed in original, undisturbed, unsaturated soil providing at least minimal vertical separation as established by WAC 246-272A, with either gravity or pressure distribution of the treatment component effluent.

"Surface Water" means any body of water, whether fresh or marine, flowing or contained in natural or artificial unlined depressions for significant periods of the year, including natural and artificial lakes, ponds, springs, rivers, streams, swamps, marshes, irrigation canals and tidal waters.

Section 4. Amends WAC 246-272A-0020 Applicability

(1) The Health Officer:

a. Shall apply this Ordinance to OSS treating sewage and dispersing effluent from residential sources with design flows under three thousand five hundred gallons per day;

b. May apply this Ordinance to OSS for nonresidential sources of sewage if treatment, siting, design, installation, and operation and maintenance measures provide treatment and effluent dispersal are equal to that required of residential sources.

c. May not apply this Ordinance to industrial wastewater.

(2) A valid sewage system design approval, or installation permit issued prior to the effective date of the current GCHD Ordinance:

a. Shall be acted upon in accordance with GCHD Ordinance in force at the time of issuance;

b. Shall remain valid for an additional year beyond the effective date of the requirements of this Ordinance;

c. A start permit issued after the effective date of this ordinance for a design approved prior to the effective date of this ordinance, will be valid for an additional year beyond the effective date of the requirements of this Ordinance; and

d. May be modified to include additional requirements if the Health Officer determines that a serious threat to public health exists.

(3) This Ordinance does not apply to facilities regulated as reclaimed water use under chapter 90.46 RCW.

(4) A fully completed application shall be processed in the following manner:

a. Reviewed within 20 working days.

b. A permitted or pending decision will be made within the review time allowed in (a) of this subsection.

c. If the application decision is pending the reasons for the status will be communicated to the designer. The designer will be given 20 days to respond and attempt to address the reasons for the pending status.

d. If the designer fails to address the pending status within the time allowed in (c) of this subsection a letter will be sent to the applicant, the letter must advise the applicant of the application status, prior communication of the status to the designer, reason(s) for the status decision, that the applicant has 30 days to attempt to address the issues which led to the status decision in order to avoid permit denial, the designer will be sent a copy of the letter.

e. If the applicant fails to meet the requirements outlined per the letter in (d) of this subsection, the application will be denied. A written justification for denial and an explanation of the procedure for appeal will be provided by the Health Officer.

(5) Every place where people congregate or reside shall be provided with a means of sewage disposal acceptable to the Health Officer. This shall include all recreational sites and all other places where, in the opinion of the Health Officer toilet facilities are necessary to protect public health.

Section 5. Amends WAC 246-272A-0210 Location

TABLE IV
Minimum Horizontal Separations

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and non-perforated distribution pipe
Well	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
Public drinking water well	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
Nonpublic drinking water well	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and non-perforated distribution pipe
Public drinking water spring or surface water measured from the ordinary high water mark	200 ft.	200 ft.	100 ft.
Nonpublic drinking water spring or surface water measured from the ordinary high-water mark[1]	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
Nonpublic, in-ground, drinking water containment vessel3	20 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Pressurized water supply line or easement for water supply line	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Closed geothermal loop[4] or pressurized nonpotable water line	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Decommissioned well (decommissioned in accordance with chapter 173-160 WAC)	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Surface water measured from the ordinary high water mark	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Building foundation/in-ground swimming pool	10 ft.	5 ft.	2 ft.
Property or easement line	5 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Lined[5] stormwater detention pond[6]			
Down-gradient[7]:	30 ft.	N/A	N/A
Up-gradient[7]:	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Unlined[8] stormwater infiltration pond[6] (up or down-gradient)[7]	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Unlined irrigation canal or irrigation pond (up or down-gradient)	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Interceptor/curtain drains/foundation drains/drainage ditches			
Down-gradient[2]:	30 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient[2]:	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Subsurface stormwater infiltration or dispersion component[6]			
Down-gradient[7]:	30 ft.	10 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient[7]:	30 ft.	10 ft.	N/A
Other site features that may allow effluent to surface			
Down-gradient[2]:	30 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient[2]:	10 ft.	N/A	N/A

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and non-perforated distribution pipe
Down-gradient cuts or banks with less than 5 ft. of original, undisturbed soil above a restrictive layer due to a structural or textural change	50 ft.	N/A	N/A
Down-gradient cuts or banks with at least 5 ft. of original, undisturbed soil above a restrictive layer due to a structural or textural change	25 ft.	N/A	N/A
Soil dispersal components serving a separate OSS	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Drainfield/Reserve drainfield	10 ft.	5 ft.	N/A

[1] If surface water is used as a public drinking water supply, the designer shall locate the OSS outside of the required source water protection area.

[2] The item is down-gradient when liquid will flow toward it upon encountering a water table or a restrictive layer. The item is up-gradient when liquid will flow away from it upon encountering a water table or restrictive layer.

[3] Any in-ground containment vessel used to store drinking water.

[4] A network of underground piping carrying fluid under pressure used to heat and cool a structure.

[5] Lined means any component that has the intended function of detaining the stormwater with no intention of dispersal into surrounding soil.

[6] OSS components take precedence in cases of horizontal setback conflicts between OSS and stormwater components.

[7] Down-gradient means that subsurface water flows toward and is usually located lower in elevation. Up-gradient means subsurface water does not flow toward and generally flat, or flows away from and generally located higher in elevation.

[8] Unlined means any component that has the ability to or intended function of infiltrating the stormwater.

Section 6. Amends WAC 246-272A-0220 Soil and Site Evaluation

Type 5 soil shall include non-restrictive caliche as shown in TABLE V.

TABLE V
Soil Type Descriptions

Soil Type	Soil Textural Classifications
1	Gravelly and very gravelly coarse sands, all extremely gravelly soils excluding those with Soil Types 5 and 6 as the nongravel portion, and all Soil Types with greater than or equal to 90% rock fragments.
2	Coarse sands.
3	Medium sands, loamy coarse sands, loamy medium sands.
4	Fine sands, loamy fine sands, sandy loams, loams.
5	Very fine sands, loamy very fine sands; or silt loams, non-restrictive caliche, sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with a moderate or strong structure (excluding platy structure).
6	Other silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, silty clay loams, non-restrictive platy structure.
7 Unsuitable for treatment or dispersal	Sandy clay, clay, silty clay, strongly cemented or firm soils, soil with a moderate or strong platy structure, any soil with a massive structure, any soil with appreciable amounts of expending clays, restrictive caliche.

Section 7. Amends WAC 246-272A-0230 Design requirements — General

(1) On-site sewage systems may only be designed by professional engineers, licensed under chapter 18.43 RCW or on-site sewage treatment system designers, licensed under chapter 18.210 RCW, except that the Health Officer may allow a resident owner of a single family residence to design the septic system if the property is suitable for a gravity OSS.
(2) The non-perforated pipe in the OSS shall be bedded with soil or sand with gravel less than ¼ inches in diameter with a minimum of 4 inches of this material under the pipe 6 inches over the pipe.
(3) The treatment level required is determined by the texture and depth of soil as illustrated in TABLE VI
(4) The public domain OSS design meeting the requirements of treatment levels A, B, C, and E is shown on TABLE VI A.

TABLE VI

NEW BUILDING SITES						
Soil Type	**SOIL TYPE**	VERTICAL SEPARATION **12" < 18"**	VERTICAL SEPARATION **≥18" < 24"**	VERTICAL SEPARATION **≥24" < 36"**	VERTICAL SEPARATION **≥36" < 60"**	VERTICAL SEPARATION **≥60"**
1	Gravelly and very gravelly coarse sands, all extremely gravelly soils excluding those with Soil Types 5 and 6 as the nongravel portion, and all Soil Types with greater than or equal to 90% rock fragments.	**A & BL1 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**B & BL2 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**B & BL2 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**B & BL2 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C & BL2 - PRESSURE**
2	Coarse sands	**B & BL2 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C AND BL3 – PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C & BL3 PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - PRESSURE**	**E - GRAVITY**
3	Medium Sands, loamy coarse sands, loamy medium sands	**B & BL 2 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C AND BL3 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - GRAVITY**	**E - GRAVITY**
4	Fine sands, loamy fine sands, sandy loams, loams	**B & BL 2 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C AND BL3 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - GRAVITY**	**E - GRAVITY**
5	Very fine sands, loamy very fine sands; or silt loams, non-restrictive caliche sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with a moderate or STRONG STRUCTURE (excluding PLATY STRUCTURE)	**B & BL 2 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C AND BL3 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - GRAVITY**	**E - GRAVITY**
6	Other silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, silty clay loams.	**B & BL 2 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**C AND BL3 - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - PRESSURE WITH TIMED DOSING**	**E - GRAVITY**	**E - GRAVITY**
7	Sandy clay, clay, silty clay, strongly cemented or firm soils, soil with moderate or strong PLATY STRUCTURE, any soil with a MASSIVE STRUCTURE and any soil with EXPANDING CLAY s	**Not Suitable**	**Not Suitable**	**Not Suitable**	**Not Suitable**	**Not Suitable**
	"GRAVELLY" - Means soil with ≥**15%,** but < **35%** ROCK Fragments by volume.					
	"VERY GRAVELLY" - Means soil with ≥**35%,** but < **60%** ROCK Fragments by volume					
	"EXTREMELY GRAVELLY" - Means soil with ≥**60%,** but < **90%** ROCK Fragments by volume					

TABLE VI A

Public Domain Technology Name*	TLA	TLB	TLC	TLE	TLN
Intermittent Sand Filter System		✓	✓		
Mound System		✓	✓		50% of Total N
Recirculating Gravel Filter System			✓		✓
Sand Lined Trenches/ Bed System		✓	✓		
Stratified Sand Filter System	✓	✓	✓		

***** Listed treatment technologies meet levels of treatment performance when constructed and used according to their respective departmental recommended standards and guidance documents.

TLA= Treatment Level A, TLB= Treatment Level B, TLC=Treatment Level C, TLE= Treatment Level E, TLN= Treatment Level N (See WAC 246-272A- 0010)

Section 8. Amends WAC 246-272A-0232 Design Requirements-Septic Tank Sizing

(1) Septic tanks must be approved by the DOH and shall have an effluent filter installed in the outlet baffle.

(2) A riser or manhole shall be installed over the lids of septic tanks and pump chambers, secured to prevent unauthorized access and extended to the level of final surface grade.

(3) Access to all septic tank outlet filters is required, the filter handle needs to be within 6" of finished grade. The pump disconnect union access needs to be within 24" of the finished grade and located to allow for easy removal of the pump.

(4) The required volume of the septic tank and pump chamber are shown in TABLE VII.

TABLE VII
Required Minimum Liquid Volumes of Septic Tanks and Pump Chambers for residential sources in Gallons

Number of Bedrooms	Septic Tank Size[1]	Pump Chamber Total Required[2] Volume (gal.)
3	1000	1000
4	1000	1250
For each added bedroom	250	250

[1] Tank volume refers to is the area below the invert outlet.

[2] Total required pump chamber volume is based on liquid depth of 175% of the daily design flow and the height of the pump shroud.

Section 9. Amends WAC 246-272A-0234 Design requirements—Soil Dispersal Components

(1) Maximum Hydraulic Loading Rates shall be based on the rates described in TABLE VIII. (see following page)

TABLE VIII
MAXIMUM HYDRAULIC LOADING RATE

Soil Type	Soil Textural Classification Description	Loading Rate for Residential Septic Tank Effluent Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day	Loading Rate for Residential Septic Tank Effluent Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution (sq. ft./bedroom)	Loading Rate for Residential Effluent Meeting Treatment Level C & BL3 or Higher Effluent Quality Using Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day	Loading Rate for Residential Effluent Meeting Treatment Level C & BL3 or Higher Effluent Quality Using Pressure Distribution (sq. ft./bedroom)
1	Gravelly and very gravelly coarse sands, all extremely gravelly soils excluding Soil Types 5 & 6 as the nongravel portion, and all Soil Types with greater than or equal to 90% rock fragments.	1.0	120	1.2	100
2	Coarse sands.	1.0	120	1.2	100
3	Medium sands, loamy coarse sands, loamy medium sands.	0.8	150	1.0	120
4	Fine sands, loamy fine sands, sandy loams, loams.	0.6	200	0.8	150
5	Very fine sands, loamy very fine sands; or silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, non-restrictive caliche, and silty clay loams with a moderate structure or strong structure (excluding a platy structure).	0.4	300	0.56	214
6	Other silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, silty clay loams.	0.2	600	0.2	600
7	Sandy clay, clay, silty clay and strongly cemented firm soils, soil with a moderate or strong platy structure, any soil with a massive structure, any soil with appreciable amounts of expanding clays.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable

(2) All SSAS shall meet the following requirements:

a. A pressure dosing design is required for all beds.

b. Bed width may not exceed 10 feet.

c. A bed design is allowed in Soil Type 1, 2, and 3 and in Soil Type 4 only if fine sand.

d. Separation from edge to edge between active trenches and beds shall be 4 feet minimum.

(3) For SSAS with drain rock and distribution pipe:

a. A minimum of two inches of drain rock is required above the distribution pipe;

b. Clean gravel ¾ inch to 2 1/2 inch in diameter is required.

c. The trench sidewall below the invert of the distribution pipe must be at least 6 inches into original undisturbed soil.

d. The soil used as back fill cover over a gravel drainfield shall not have rock particles greater than 6 inches in diameter.

(4) For SSAS with gravelless drainfield

a. Gravelless chambers shall be bedded to an adequate depth with ASTM C-33 sand to assure levelness when utilized in Soil Type 1.

b. Back fill material to 6 inches above the top of the drainfield component shall be soil not having rock more than 3 inches in diameter.

c. For design flows of greater than 1000 gal/day, no more than a 25% reduction in drainfield size is allowed in Soil Types 3 through 6.

(5) The Health Officer may permit systems consisting solely of a septic tank and a gravity SSAS in Soil Type 1 if all the following criteria are met:

a. Site for the OSS has at least 60 inches of vertical separation from the infiltrative surface to a restrictive layer.

b. The system serves one single-family residence;

c. The lot size:

i. Is a minimum of two and one-half acres;

ii. Allows for a minimum of 2.5 acres for each gravity OSS serving a single family residence; or

iii. Allows for a minimum of 2.5 acres for a gravity OSS serving one single family residence in addition to the minimum lot size required for other OSS types when another OSS that is not gravity is located on the same lot.

d. Annual precipitation in the region is less than twenty-five inches per year as described by "*Washington Climate*" published jointly by the Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, and Washington State University (available for inspection at Washington state libraries);

e. The geologic conditions beneath the dispersal component must satisfy the minimum unsaturated depth requirements to Ground Water as determined by the local Health Officer. The method for determination is described by "*Design Guideline for Gravity Systems in Soil Type 1*" (available upon request to the DOH); and

f. The OSS will not be located within 200 feet of a lake, river, or stream.

(6) Gravity Systems must be designed to have equal distribution to all lines.

(7) All distribution boxes are required to have access to the ground surface for service and maintenance, the distribution box shall be protected from unintended access.

Section 10. Amends WAC 246-272A-0200 Permit Requirements

All installation start permits will be valid for 2 years from date of the approved application.

Section 11.0 Amends WAC 246-272A-0250 Installation

(1) All sewage disposal systems shall be installed by approved installers, with the following exceptions:

a. A residential system with a conventional gravity design may be installed by the resident owner of the property for a single-family dwelling as allowed under WAC 246-272A-0250 (2) subject to an approval and review of the environmental staff.

b. In response to a written request, the Health Officer may allow a person or organization under some circumstances to be allowed to install an OSS if the Health Officer determines a threat to public health will not result from allowing this installation. In no circumstance shall any non-licensed installer be allowed to install more than one OSS in a 12-month period.

(2) All polyethylene, fiberglass, or other approved tanks that are assembled from 2 halves, must be filled with water at the time of inspection to verify water tightness or provide certification of water tightness from tank manufacturer or other approved 3rd party.

Section 12. Amends 246-272A-0260 Inspection

(1) For all activities requiring a permit, the Health Officer shall:

a. Visit the OSS site during the site evaluation, construction, or final construction inspection.

b. Either inspect the OSS before cover or allow the designer of the OSS to perform the inspection before cover if the designer does not have a conflict of interest such as a business or family relationship with the installer of the system.

c. Keep the record drawings on file with the approved design documents.

(2) The person responsible for the final construction inspection shall assure the OSS meets the standards of this Ordinance and the conditions of any authorized waiver.

(3) The installer of the septic system shall be responsible to assure that the OSS meets the approved design and system location.

Section 13. Amends 246-272A-0265 Record Drawings

(1) Record Drawings are required at the time of final inspection.

(2) If the Record Drawing is not provided at the time of final construction inspection, no additional inspections for any other OSS completed by the installer responsible will be completed until the

required information is submitted.

Section 14. Amends 246-272A-0275 Operation, Monitoring, and Maintenance—Food Service Establishments

(1) An evaluation and inspection of all OSS for food establishments shall be required annually. The required annual evaluation and inspection of OSS shall be done by a septic maintenance service provider certified by the GCHD. Food service establishments that do not serve exposed foods may be exempted from these requirements by the Health Officer.
(2) Other OSS as determined by the Health Officer may also require an annual report as determined by the conditions of the permit when issued.

Section 15. Amends WAC 246-272A-0278 Remediation

(1) The use of a remediation technology or process constitutes a modification of the OSS and a permit is required.
(2) Prior to issuing a permit, an assessment of the failing system must be performed by a designer, certified septic maintenance service provider, or by the Health Officer.
(3) The Health Officer may require a maintenance agreement or monitoring of the remediation for up to 6 months.
(4) If a failing condition persists after a remediation technology or process has been used for six months, a repair of the OSS will be required.
(5) Remediation technologies must be installed or performed by a certified Installer. The Health Officer may allow other professionals authorized by the manufacturer of the technology or process to perform the work.

Section 16. Amends WAC 246-272A-0280 Repair of Failures

(1) The OSS owner shall notify Grant County Health District when there is a failure and indicate which methods will be used to address the failure in accordance with WAC 246-272A and this Ordinance.

(2) The Health Officer may require the owner to develop, and implement, mitigation measures to protect public health and/or minimize any adverse effects from a sewage system failure, or malfunction, during the repair or replacement process.

(3) The owner shall be responsible for the timely repair or replacement of a malfunctioning or failing on-site sewage system or system component by one of the following:

a. Conformance to WAC 246-272A and this Ordinance, including but not limited to development and submittal of plans, permits, etc.;

b. Connection to a DOH approved large onsite sewage system (LOSS); or

c. Connection to a WA Department of Ecology approved public sewer or water reuse system.

(4) When none of the remedies in Section 16(3) are possible and reasonable, the owner shall coordinate with the Health Officer to implement at least one of the following to mitigate adverse affects of the system failure or malfunction:

a. Use of a permitted holding tank in accordance with requirements of WAC 246-272A;

b. Obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System or State Discharge Permit from the WA Department of Ecology only when the Health Officer determines an OSS is not possible and feasible and the only realistic method of final dispersal of treated effluent is discharge to the surface of the land or into surface water; or

c. Vacate and abandon the property.

(5) The person responsible for the design shall locate and design repairs to meet the requirements of TABLE X if the effluent treatment and soil dispersal component to be repaired or replaced is closer to any surface water, well, or spring than prescribed by the minimum separation required in TABLE IV of WAC 246-272A-0210. Pressure distribution with timed dosing in the soil dispersal component is required in all cases where a conforming system is not feasible.

(6) TABLE X shall be amended as follows:

TABLE X
Treatment Component Performance Levels for Repair of OSS Not Meeting Vertical and Horizontal Separations[1]

VERTICAL SEPARATION (in inches)	Horizontal Separation[2]											
	< 30 feet			30 < 50 feet			50 < 100 feet[3]			≥ 100 feet		
	Soil Type			Soil Type			Soil Type			Soil Type		
	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6
< 12	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2
≥ 12 < 18	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	Conforming OSS		
≥ 18 < 24	A &BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2			
≥ 24 < 36	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	C & BL3			
≥ 36	A & BL1	B & BL2	B & BL2	B & BL2	C & BL3	C & BL3	B & BL2	C & BL3	C & BL3			

[1] The treatment component performance levels correspond with those established for treatment components under the product performance testing requirements in TABLE III of WAC 246-272A.
[2] The horizontal separation indicated in TABLE IV of Section 5 is the distance between the soil dispersal component and the surface water, well, or spring. If the soil dispersal component is up-gradient of surface water, well, or spring to be used as a potable water source, the next higher treatment level shall apply unless treatment level A and BL1 is already required.
[3] On a site where there is a horizontal setback of 75 - 100 feet between an OSS dispersal component and an individual water well, individual spring, nonmarine surface water or surface water that is not a public water source and a vertical separation of greater than twelve inches, a conforming system that complies with WAC 246-272A-0210(4) shall be installed if feasible.

(7) If the failed or failing OSS is not repaired or replaced, or another method of wastewater disposal is not approved per items (1) through (6), the Health Officer may issue an Order to declare the property unfit for habitation, or to vacate the property. A notice to vacate shall include the following:

a. The name and address for the person responsible for the alleged violation;
b. The street address or description sufficient for identification of the building, structure or premises, or land upon or within which the alleged violation has occurred or is occurring;
c. A description of the violation including reference to applicable regulation(s);
d. A date by which any persons shall vacate the premises. In case of extreme danger to persons or property immediate compliance shall be required;
e. The required corrective action; and

f. A statement that the person to whom the notice to vacate is issued may appeal the order pursuant to this Ordinance.

The Health Officer Order shall be served upon the owner of the property where the alleged violation occurred or is occurring, either personally or by mailing a copy of the notice by regular and certified or registered mail with a return receipt requested, to the owner at their last known address. A copy of the Order shall also be delivered to any occupants of the property, either personally or by mailing a copy of the notice and may be posted on the property where the violation occurred or is occurring. A copy may also be filed to the title of the property.

Section 17. Amends WAC 246-272A-0310 Septage Management

(1) Persons removing septage from an OSS Shall:

a. Report all activities on monthly forms designed by GCHD;

b. Include all information requested on the monthly forms (i.e. Customer Name, Location of Dump Site etc.); and

c. Submit all monthly reports in order to renew annual certifications.

Section 18. Amends WAC 246-272A-0340 Certification of Installers, Pumpers, and Maintenance Service Providers

(1) OSS Installers , pumpers and septic maintenance service providers must obtain approval from the Health Officer prior to providing services within Grant County.

(2) The Health Officer may establish programs and requirements for approving OSS installers, pumpers, and septic maintenance service providers.

(3) OSS Installers shall obtain and provide proof to GCHD of a valid Washington State contractor's license. The Washington State contractor's license must be valid in a non-suspended status at all times to perform services related to GCHD's certification.

(4) Beginning February 1, 2025, septic maintenance service providers must obtain approval from the local health officer prior to providing services including, but not limited to, conducting inspections within Grant County.

a. Beginning January 1, 2026, septic maintenance service providers show proof of passing the Washington On-Site Sewage Association (WOSSA) O&M Level 2 (Specialist) exam. The Health Officer may issue a septic maintenance service provider certification to a licensed WA OSS Designer or Professional Engineer (PE) with demonstrated knowledge and experience of OSS.

(5) Certifications issued by GCHD shall expire on December 31st of each year.

(6) Installers, septic maintenance service providers, and pumpers are required to continue their professional development. Upon request by GCHD, the certified individual shall provide

documentation of professional development, including, but not limited to continuing education classes and demonstrated field knowledge.

(7) Any installer who installs an OSS without a valid permit or installs an OSS that does not conform to the approved design, 3 times within a 12-month period will result in a certificate in probationary status for 12 months. When in probationary status, any additional offense may result in the certificate being suspended.

(8) The Health Officer may suspend or revoke any installer, pumper, or septic maintenance service provider certificate if there has been finding of incompetency, negligence, willful misrepresentation, or failure to comply with this chapter or other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

(9) Any installer, pumper, or septic maintenance service provider who fails to renew their license for two years or greater will need to apply for a new certification, including meeting all requirements for certification.

(10) Installers who have not renewed their certification in 2 years or more must retake the GCHD Installer Exam and apply for a new certification.

Section 19. Amends WAC 246-272A-0420 Waiver of State Regulations

A Local Technical Review Committee shall review waiver requests and mitigation measures for which waivers of the requirements specific to this Ordinance or WAC 246-272A may be granted.

Section 20. Enforcement

(1) If a certificate is suspended or revoked, the certified installer, pumper, or septic maintenance service provider must discontinue services in Grant County. If certificate holder wants to have the certificate reinstated, the holder must schedule an administrative hearing with the assigned inspector and the Environmental Health Manager or designee. The certificate holder must give reasons that the certificate should be reinstated. The cost of the hearing will be based on the current fee schedule. All fees owed to GCHD must be paid before reinstatement can occur.

(2) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, any person who violates, refuses, or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to have committed a civil infraction and be subject to a penalty of up to $1000.

Section 21. Appeals

(1) Any person requesting appeal of an action by GCHD staff regarding the administration of this ordinance may appeal in writing to the Health Officer within ten (10) days of a written notice or directive of GCHD. If the written appeal does not provide sufficient evidence for the Health Officer to change the GCHD staff decision:

a. First Appeal- Within 30 days after receipt of an appeal, the Health Officer may conduct an administrative hearing in the disputed matter.

i. The hearing may include taking evidence orally and written from GCHD staff, the party aggrieved, and witnesses.

ii. A decision will be given in writing to the person or party making the appeal.

iii. Such administrative hearing may take place sooner than 30 calendar days if the aggrieved party shows extraordinary hardship or duress caused by the GCHD staff decision.

b. Second Appeal- Following a written request to the Health Officer, within ten (10) days of the Health Officer's written decision, any person not satisfied with the Health Officer's decision or the results of the administrative hearing shall make a written request for a meeting with the Grant County Board of Health.

i. The appellant will be provided with the opportunity to address the Board of Health at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or sooner if the aggrieved party demonstrates extraordinary hardship or duress caused by the Health Officer's decision.

ii. The matter under appeal will be decided by a majority vote of the Board of Health.

(2) Pending hearings or appeals shall not stay the orders of the Regulatory Authority.

Section 22. Severability

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 23. Effective Date

PASSED BY THE GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND SIGNED BY ITS CHAIR ON August 20, 2025 and TO GO INTO EFFECT August 21, 2025.

_____

Attest:

_____
Rita Morfin, Clerk of the Board

_____
Matthew Paluch, Vice Chair

_____
Katherine Kenison
Health District Attorney

_____
Date