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# CLAY COUNTY SANITARY CODE

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SANITARY CODE  
CLAY COUNTY, KANSAS  
CHAPTER 1

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

- SECTION 1-1.0 **AUTHORITY AND POLICY**
- 1-1.1 **LEGAL AUTHORITY.** This code is adopted under the authority granted to the Board of County Commissioners by K.S.A. 19-3701 et. seq. or K.S.A. 12-3301 et. seq., as amended.
- 1-1.2 **Declaration of Finding and Policy.** The Commissioners find that the provision of adequate and reasonable control over sanitary conditions in the county is necessary and desirable. A sanitary code establishes standards to eliminate and/or prevent the development of environmental conditions that are hazardous to health and safety, and promotes the economical and planned development of the land and water resources of the county. For these reasons and objectives, it will be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners to adopt, and amend when necessary, a sanitary code for the regulation of practices that affect the environment and public health and safety.
- 1-1.3 **Purpose:** The purpose and intent of this chapter is to prescribe the administrative procedures to be followed in administering this sanitary code or any amendments thereto.
- 1-1.4 **Title:** This code shall be known and referred to as the Clay County Sanitary Code.
- 1-1.5 **Applicability.** The procedures prescribed in this chapter shall be followed in administering this code and any amendments thereto.
- 1-1.6 **Effective Date.** This code shall become effective November 23, 1992. Amended 04-15-02 and 04-27-15.
- SECTION 1-2.0 **DEFINITIONS** The following words, terms and phrases, appear in more than one chapter of this code and thus have general application and usage. Words, terms, and phrases appropriate or applicable to specific chapters within this code may be found in that particular chapter.
- 1-2.1 **Administrative Agency** means the entity authorized to administer and implement the provisions of this code. The Administrative Agency for Clay County is designated as the Clay County Board of County Commissioners.

- 1-2.2 Administrative Rules means those rules contained in chapter one of this sanitary code which prescribe general procedures to be followed in the administration of the sanitary code adopted by the county.
- 1-2.3 Authorized Representative means any person or agency who is designated by the Administrative Agency to administer this code.
- 1-2.4 Board of County Commissioners means the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Kansas
- 1-2.5 Board of Health means the Clay County Board of Health (K.S.A. 65-201) The Board of Health in Clay County is the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1-2.6 Hearing Officer mean an individual, appointed by the Administrative Agency, to hear appeals from decisions relation to the administration of this code.
- 1-2.7 KDHE means the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- 1-2.8 Permit means the written formal authorization to perform some act regulated by this Sanitary Code. Examples would include, but not limited to, a permit to construct or a permit to operate.
- 1-2.9 Person means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, state, or political subdivision thereof, federal, state agency, municipality, commission, or interstate body or other legal entity recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.
- 1-2.10 Premise means any lot, or tract of land and all buildings, structures, or facilities located thereon.

## SECTION

### 1-3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND PROCEDURES

1-3.1 Right of Entry: Authorized Representative of the Administrative Agency shall have the power and authority to inspect premises for compliance with the Clay County Sanitary Code as granted under K.S.A. 65-159.

#### 1-3.2 Permit and License.

1-3.2.1 Application for Permits and Licenses. Every person required by this sanitary code to obtain a permit or license shall make application for such permit or license to the Authorized Representative.

1-3.2.2 Issuance of Permit or License. After receipt of an application as required by this code, the Authorized Representative shall begin such investigation as deemed necessary to determine whether the permit or license should be issued or denied, and shall issue or deny the permit or license within thirty (30) days of such receipt. If the permit or license is denied, the Authorized Representative shall send the applicant a written notice and state the reasons for the rejection.

The person performing the work authorized by the permit shall notify the authorized representative as to when the work is ready for inspection. Such notification shall be given not less than one (1) business day before the work is to be inspected. Any emergency work, pertaining to the Sanitary Code, completed in evenings, weekends or holidays must be reported to the authorized representative the following business day.

1-3.2.3 Permit Nontransferable. No permit or license required by this sanitary code shall be transferable, nor shall any fees required and paid therefore be refundable.

1-3.2.4 Permit Revocation. All permits are subject to revocation for reasons of noncompliance or misrepresentation.

1-3.2.5 Standard Fees. The Administrative Agency shall establish a schedule of fees for all permits and licenses required by the code, and said fees shall be paid into the Authorized Representative. The Authorized Representative shall not process any application for a permit or license until the required fee has been paid.

1-3.3 Notices, Orders, Appeals.

1-3.3.1 Notice of Violations. When the Administrative Agency determines that there has been a violation of any provision of this code, notice of such violation shall be issued to the person responsible. The notice shall:

- a. Be in writing
- b. Include a statement of why the notice is being issued;
- c. Allow a reasonable period of time for the performance of any work required by the notice; and,
- d. Be properly served upon the owner or agent.

Such notice shall be deemed properly served when a copy has been sent by certified mail to the last known address of the owner or agent.

1-3.3.2 Appeal for Hearing. Any person aggrieved by any notice or order issued by the Administrative Agency or Authorized Representative under the provisions of this sanitary code may request, and shall be granted, a hearing on the matter before the Hearing Officer; provided such person shall file with the Administrative Agency, within ten (10) working days after the date of issuance of the notice or order, a written petition requesting a hearing and setting forth the grounds upon which the request is made. Except in the case of Emergency Orders as defined in Section 1-3.3.4, the filing of the request for a hearing shall operate as a stay of the notice or order. Upon receipt of such petition, the Administrative Agency shall set a time and place for such hearing and shall give the petitioner written notice thereof. At such hearing, the

petitioner shall be given an opportunity to show why such notice or order should be modified or withdrawn. The hearing shall be commenced no later than ten (10) working days after the date on which the petition was filed; provided, that upon request of the petitioner, the Administrative Agency may postpone the hearing for a reasonable time beyond such ten-day period, when in the Agency's judgment the petitioner has submitted justifiable reason for such postponement.

1-3.3.3 Report of Hearing. Within ten (10) working days after such a hearing, the Hearing Officer shall submit the findings of the hearing to the petitioner. The findings shall include a recommendation that the order be sustained, modified or withdrawn. The Administrative Agency shall consider the report and issue an order confirming, modifying or withdrawing the notice or order, and shall notify the petitioner in the same manner as is provided for in Sec. 1-3.3.1.

1-3.3.4 Emergency Orders. Whenever the Administrative Agency finds that an emergency exists which requires immediate action to protect the public, the Administrative Agency may issue an order reciting the existence of such an emergency, and specifying action to be taken to meet the emergency. Such an order shall be effective immediately. Any person to whom such an order is directed shall comply immediately.

#### 1-3.4 Records

1-3.4.1 Permit Application. Application for permits or licenses required by this code shall be filed with the Authorized Representative.

1-3.4.2 Official Actions. A written record of all official actions taken on applications for permits and licenses required by this Sanitary Code shall be kept on file with the Administrative Agency or Authorized Representative.

1-3.4.3 Proceedings of Hearings. The proceedings of all hearings, including findings and decisions of the Hearing Officer, and a copy of every notice and order thereto shall be filed with the Administrative Agency. Transcripts of the proceedings of hearings need not be transcribed unless a judicial review of the decision is sought.

#### 1-3.5 General Provisions

1-3.5.1 Enforcement Procedure. It shall be the duty of the County Attorney to prosecute any person who violates any provision of this code. It shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Agency to file in a timely manner with the County Attorney all reports concerning alleged violations of this code.

- 1-3.5.2 Penalties. In addition to, and independently of, the enforcement procedures provided in section 1-3.5.1, any violation of any provision of an environmental code shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor and upon conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) for each offense. Each day's violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- 1-3.5.3 Disclaimer of Liability. This code and other sanitary codes adopted shall not be construed or interpreted as imposing upon the county or its officials or employees, Administrative Agency or Authorized Representative (1) any liability or responsibilities for damages to any property, or injury or loss of life or (2) any warranty that any system, installation or portion thereof that is constructed or repaired under permits and inspections required by the sanitary code will function properly. In addition, any Authorized Representative charged with the enforcement of this Code, who acts in good faith and without malice in the discharge of his or her duties, shall not thereby be personally liable and is hereby relieved from personal liability for damage which may occur to any person or property as a result of the discharge of his or her duties.
- 1-3.5.4 Separability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or subsection of this code shall for any reason be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional and invalid, such judgment shall not affect, repeal or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or subsection found to be unconstitutional and invalid.



**SANITARY CODE**  
**CLAY COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CHAPTER 2**

**PRIVATE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

- SECTION 2-1.0 **PURPOSE AND INTENT**  
Sewage is a potential source of disease and water pollution, and a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide minimum standards for the location, design, construction, maintenance and use of private wastewater systems, and the removal and disposal of materials from such facilities within the legal boundaries of Clay County.
- SECTION 2-2.0 **APPLICABILITY**  
The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all unincorporated areas in Clay County. In the event an incorporated city within Clay County has an environmental code, the more stringent regulations provided by the county or city codes with regard to a specific action shall apply within the incorporated area of that city.
- SECTION 2-3.0 **DEFINITIONS**
- 2-3.1 **Beneficial use** means the use of water for any of the following purposes: agricultural water supply, aquatic life; domestic water supply; groundwater discharge; industrial water supply; recreation.
- 2-3.2 **Cesspool** is defined as a drywell that receives untreated sanitary wastes containing human excreta. A drywell is defined as a well completed above the water table so that its bottom and sides are typically dry except when receiving fluids. Cesspool systems are prohibited.
- 2-3.3 **Commercial and Industrial Wastes** is any wastes produced as a byproduct of any commercial or industrial process or operation, other than domestic sewage. Uses involving commercial or industrial wastewater must comply with regulations involving commercial or industrial wastes as approved and permitted by KDHE.
- 2-3.4 **Domestic Sewage** means sewage originating primarily from kitchen, bathroom and laundry sources, including waste from food preparation, dishwashing, garbage-grinding, toilets, baths, showers and sinks.
- 2-3.5 **Domestic Wastewater** means wastewater originating primarily from kitchen, bathroom, and laundry sources, including waste from food preparation, dishwashing, garbage grinding, toilets, baths, showers, and sinks.

- 2-3.6 KDHE Bulletin 4-2 means “Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bulletin 4-2, Minimum Standards for Design and Construction of Onsite Wastewater Systems”. See Appendix C.
- 2-3.7 Non-domestic Wastewater means automotive grease, oil, antifreeze or toxic or hazardous waste from a commercial or manufacturing business or waste other than domestic waste.
- 2-3.8 Nuisance means conditions or activities on properties both public and private, which have or threaten to have a detrimental effect on the environment or the health of the public.
- 2-3.9 Private Wastewater System means any system that is not required to hold a Kansas Water Pollution Control Permit pursuant to K.S.A. 1991 Supp. 65-171d. This includes wastewater disposal systems which function by soil absorption, evaporation, lagoons, transpiration, holding tanks, or any combination of the above.
- 2-3.10 Sanitary Privy means a privy with a watertight storage vault with sufficient capacity to prevent public health nuisances and discharge of contents to the surface. Vault contents are removed frequently enough to assure adequate storage capacity. Materials removed from the vault are transported and disposed at a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility or other means as approved by local authorities.
- 2-3.11 Sanitary Service means the pumping out and/or removal of sewage, sludge, or human excreta from sanitary privies, vaults, septic tanks, or private wastewater systems; and the transportation of such material to a point of final disposal.
- 2-3.12 Seepage Pit is a “drywell” that receives inadequately treated domestic sewage from a septic tank and has an open bottom and/or perforated sides.
- 2-3.13 Septage is the liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, portable toilet or a similar system that receives only household, non-commercial, non-industrial sewage.
- 2-3.14 Subdivision means any tract of land that is or has been subdivided into two or more lots for the purpose of sale or building development, whether immediate or future, including the streets, alleys, or other portions thereof intended to be dedicated for public use, and any division of lands.
- 2-3.15 Vaults/Holding Tanks means a water-tight receptacle for the retention of sewage either before, during, or after treatment.
- 2-3.16 Wastewater Systems means any system along with attendant pipes and appurtenances designed and constructed to collect, store, treat, and dispose of domestic, industrial, or commercial waste.

SECTION

2-4.0 PROHIBITED PRACTICES

2-4.1 Use of Existing Wastewater Systems. Private wastewater systems existing prior to the adoption of this code (November 23, 1992) are exempt from meeting the requirements of this code unless the existing wastewater system poses a hazard to waters of the state or public health as referred to in Section 2-4.2 provisions A, C, and/or D.

2-4.2 Use of Nonapproved Wastewater Private Systems. No person shall use, or cause to be used, any private wastewater system, or sanitary privy constructed after adoption of this sanitary code until it has been inspected and approved by the Authorized Representative or if it:

- a. Has been enjoined as a public health nuisance by a court of competent jurisdiction; or,
- b. Fails to comply with the provisions of this sanitary code, and written notice thereof has been given by the Administrative Agency; or,
- c. Discharges onto the surface of the ground, or waters of the state as defined in K.S.A. 65-161 (a); or,
- d. Receives non-domestic wastewater, causes vector breeding, or produces offensive odors or any condition that is detrimental to health and comfort.
- e. Discharges to a cesspool or seepage pit.

2-4.3 Use of Private Wastewater Systems within 400 feet of Public Sewer. No private wastewater system shall be constructed or reconstructed within 400 feet of an existing public sewer, unless the Administrative Agency finds connection to such a sewer is not feasible and that a private wastewater system, satisfying the purposes and requirements of this code, can be constructed and used on that property.

2-4.4 Location of Private Wastewater Systems Below Full/Flood Pool. No portion of a private wastewater system for newly constructed structures installed after Clay County Sanitary Code amended date 04-27-15 shall be located below the flood pool elevation of any reservoir or full pool elevation of any pond, lake, or water supply reservoir.

2-4.5 Location of Private Wastewater Systems within a 100 Year Flood Plain. No portion of a private wastewater system for a newly constructed structures shall be located within the 100 year flood plain, as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, of any stream, river, or water course.

#### 2-4.6 Location of a Private Wastewater System

##### MINIMUM SEPERATION DISTANCES

TABLE 1

##### Minimum separation distances from a wastewater system

	<u>Laterals</u>	<u>Lagoons</u>	<u>Vault/Septic Tank</u>
Public Sewer Line	400 feet	400 feet	400 feet
Property Line	10 feet	50 feet	10 feet
To Dwelling	20 feet	50 feet	10 feet
Public Water Well **	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
Private Water Well	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
Private Water Line	10 feet	10 feet	10 feet
Public Water Line	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet
Other dwellings on property	20 feet	50 feet	10 feet
Streams, lakes and ponds...	50 feet	50 feet	50 feet

#### SECTION 2-5.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

- 2.5.1 Approval of Plans. After adoption of this code no person shall develop any private wastewater system until the plans and specification for such systems have been approved by the Authorized Representative. All private wastewater systems shall be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with standards set forth in KDHE Bulletin 4-2 "Minimal Standards for Design and Construction of Onsite Wastewater Systems" published March, 1997, as amended, by KDHE and Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. KDHE Bulletin 4-2 is hereby adopted by reference. KDHE Bulletin 4-2 is hereby adopted by reference and is included herein as an Appendix C to this code.
- 2-5.2 Permit. No person shall construct or modify, or permit to be constructed or modified, any private wastewater system until a permit has been issued by the Authorized Representative. Installation of wastewater systems shall be completed and permit requirements met within 12 months of the permit approval date. If installation is not completed within 12 months, the landowner must reapply and submit the additional permit fee. This includes the wastewater lagoon fencing requirements as stated in Appendix A.
- 2-5.3 Suitable Site. No site shall be approved if:
- a. connection to an approved public wastewater system is feasible or the site violates the provisions of Section 2-4.0 of this code; or

- b. the site contains less than five acres of land exclusive of roads, streets, or other public right-of-ways or easement; or Property deeded as a parcel, or subdivisions platted prior to the adoption or amendment of this code must meet lot size requirements of the Sanitary Code in effect at the time the deed or plat is filed. Sites deeded between to the amendment date of XX-XX-XXXX and the original adoption date of November 23, 1992 are grandfathered to have three or more acres. Sites deeded prior to November 23, 1992 are considered grandfathered if they contain less than 3 acres.
  - c. the soil, topography, and geology do not meet the requirements set forth in Section 2-6.0.
- 2.5.4 Construction Approval. All private wastewater systems developed or modified after the effective date of this sanitary code must be inspected and approved by the Authorized Representative for compliance with the approved plans. No portion of the system shall be covered or made inaccessible to inspection prior to approval. Specific wastewater lagoon requirements for Clay County are in the attached Appendix A.
- 2-5.5 Proper Maintenance and Operation. All private wastewater systems shall be maintained in good working condition. Whenever the Administrative Agency finds any private waste system in violation of this code, the owner and/or user shall be ordered to correct the condition. All permitted wastewater lagoons shall be fenced and maintained as outlined in Appendix A.
- 2.5.6 Waiver. The Administrative Agency shall have the authority to grant exceptions when reliable information is provided which can justify the exception and which will still protect the beneficial uses of the waters of the state and not create a nuisance.
- 2-5.7 System requirements. All newly installed septic tanks are required to have risers installed above each septic tank lid. Inspection ports are required at the end of each lateral run.

- SECTION 2.6.0 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SOIL TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY  
No private wastewater system shall be constructed on any lot of any size unless minimum standards for soil, topography and are met as established in KDHE Bulletin 4.2.
- SECTION 2.7.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SANITARY PRIVIES
- 2.7.1 Approval of Plans. No person shall construct or modify any privy until the plans and specifications for the proposed construction and/or modification have been approved by the Authorized Representative. Privies shall not be constructed where other means of wastewater treatment acceptable under this code can be made available to the site.
- 2.7.2 Approval of Construction. No person shall use, or make available for use, any newly constructed or modified privy until the construction has been inspected and approved by the Authorized Representative for compliance with approved plans.
- 2-7.3 Proper Maintenance. No person shall use, or offer for use, any privy that is not maintained in clean sanitary condition.
- 2.7.4 Vault Required. A watertight vault shall be provided in lieu of the standard pit.
- SECTION 2-8.0 SANITARY SERVICES
- 2.8.1 Approved Septage Disposal Methods. All septage shall be disposed of using one of the following methods:
- a. Disposal of septage at a municipal wastewater treatment plant is an approved method.
  - b. Land application of septage is an acceptable method.
  - c. Other methods which are approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Administrative Agency.
- 2.8.2 Restrictions to Land Application of Septage. All land applications of septage shall be:
- a. limited to less than 30,000 gallons of septage per acre per year;
  - b. stabilized with lime to reduce pathogens and vector attraction;
  - c. incorporated into the soil within twenty-four (24) hours of application or applied to a nitrogen consuming crop;
  - d. separated by at least 200 feet between land application sites and any surface water bodies;

- e. prohibited from frozen, snow covered or saturated soil caused by heavy rain or flooding;
- f. prohibited from sites within the ten year flood plain.

**SECTION        2-9.0    REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT**

After adoption of this code no person shall develop any subdivision until the plans and specifications for private wastewater management have been approved by the Administrative-Agency.

## SANITARY CODE

### CLAY COUNTY, KANSAS

#### CHAPTER 3

#### **NONPUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES**

SECTION 3.1.0 **PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The provisions of this chapter are for the purpose of regulating and controlling the development, maintenance, and use of all water supplies other than Public Water Supplies in Clay County, Kansas, in order that public health will be protected and the contamination and pollution of the water resources of the county will be prevented.

SECTION 3-2.0 **APPLICABILITY**

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all unincorporated areas in Clay County. In the event an incorporated city within Clay County has a sanitary code, the more stringent regulations provided by the county or city codes with regard to a specific action shall apply within the incorporated area of that city.

SECTION 3-3.0 **DEFINITIONS**

3-3.1 **Public Water Supply** means a system that has at least ten service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.

3-3.2 **Private or Nonpublic Water Supply** means all water supplies not meeting the definition of Public Water Supply. Private Water Supply has one connection and nonpublic means more than 2 and less than 9 connections.

3-3.3 **Domestic Water** means water primarily for kitchen, bathroom, and laundry use, including water used for food preparation, dishwashing, baths, showers and sinks.

SECTION 3-4.0 **REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES**

3.4.1 **Permit**. No person shall develop, use, sell, or lease any modified or newly constructed private or nonpublic water supply until a permit has been obtained from the Authorized Representative.

3-4.2 **Approved Plans**. No permit to develop a private or nonpublic water supply subject to regulations of this code shall be issued until the plans have been approved by the Authorized Representative. References approved by KDHE shall be used as a guide by the Administrative Agency in reviewing and approving plans for private and nonpublic water supply systems.



- 3-4.3 Nonpublic Water Supplies Which Serve Two to Nine Service Connections. All nonpublic water supplies which serve two to nine service connections shall:
- a. Mechanically chlorinate the water delivered to the connections; and
  - b. Test for bacteriological quality at least every three months; and
  - c. Maintain logs to verify chlorine residuals and bacteriological quality for a period of at least one year.

- 3-4.4 Disinfection of Private or Nonpublic Water Supplies Testing Positive for Coliform Bacteria. All private or nonpublic water sources shall be disinfected in accordance to Kansas Water Well Regulations noted in Article 12-*Kansas Groundwater Exploration and Protection Act* and Article 30-*Water Well Contractors License; Water Well Construction and Abandonment*.

SECTION

3-5.0 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES

- 3-5.1 Location. All wells used as sources of water for private and nonpublic water supplies shall be separated from the specified sources of pollution by distances equal to or greater than those shown in Table 2. Such distances may be increased by the Administrative Agency to provide assurance that the well will not be contaminated.

**TABLE 2**

Minimum separation distance between private and nonpublic water supply wells and sources of pollution.

<u>Source of Pollution</u>	<u>Minimum Separation</u>	<u>Recommended Separation</u>
Subsurface absorption field for septic tank effluent...	100 feet*	≥ 100 feet**
Pit privy (with vault).....	100 feet*	≥ 100 feet**
Septic tank/vault.....	100 feet*	≥ 100 feet**
Barnyards, stables, manure piles, animal pens, etc...	50 feet*	≥ 100 feet**
Streams, lakes and ponds...	50 feet*	≥ 50 feet**
Sewer lines, not constructed of cast iron or other equally watertight construction.....	50 feet*	≥ 100 feet
Sewer lines, constructed of cast iron or other equally watertight construction.....	10 feet*	≥ 10 feet
Property Line.....	25 feet	>25 feet

\*As required by K.A.R. 28-10-101

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3-5.2 Construction and Enforcement. Well construction and the enforcement of this section of the environmental code shall be regulated in accordance with K.A.R. 28-30-1 through 28-30-10 et seq. as amended.

**SECTION**

**3-6.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT**

After adoption of this code no person shall develop any subdivision until the plans and specifications for water supply provision and/or protection have been approved by the Administrative Agency.

**SANITARY CODE**  
**CLAY COUNTY, KANSAS**  
**CHAPTER 4**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- SECTION 4-1.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT.  
The provisions of this chapter are for the purpose of regulating and providing for the safe and sanitary storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste within Clay County.
- SECTION 4-2.0 APPLICABILITY.  
The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all land located in unincorporated Clay County, Kansas.
- SECTION 4-3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS  
4-3.1 K.A.R. 28-29-1 through 28-29-27 (as amended), Solid Waste Management Standards and Regulations, as authorized by K.S.A. 1981 Supp. 65-3406 (as amended) are hereby adopted by reference.  
K.S.A. 65-3401 through 65-3423 (as amended), Solid and Hazardous Waste, is hereby adopted by reference.  
K.S.A. 65-3430 through 65-3472 (as amended), Hazardous Waste, is hereby adopted by reference.
- SECTION 4-4.0 INVESTIGATION REPORTS  
The Authorized Representative shall upon written notification of the existence of any health hazards or nuisances pertaining to solid wastes within Clay County, shall investigate. Upon direction of the Administrative Agency a written notice of appropriate action shall be sent to the landowner or person(s) responsible for the property.
- SECTION 4-5.0 ABATEMENT.  
In addition to, or as an alternative to prosecution as provided in Section 1-3.5.2, the County may seek to remedy violations of this section in the following manner: If a person to whom a notice has been sent pursuant to Section 1-3.3.1, has neither alleviated the conditions causing the alleged violation nor requested a hearing before the Hearing Officer within the time periods specified in Section 1-3.3.2, the County may authorize the abatement of the conditions causing the violation. An Emergency Order as specified in Section 1-3.3.4 may be exercised to protect the public against immediate hazards.

SECTION

4-6.0 COSTS ASSESSED.

If the County abates the hazard or nuisance pursuant to Section 4-5.0, the County Clerk shall give notice to the person, corporation, partnership or association found to be in violation of this Chapter, by certified mail of the cost of abatement of the hazard or nuisance, to include administrative costs. The notice shall state that payment of the cost is due and payable within 30 days following receipt of the notice. If the costs remain unpaid after 30 days following receipt of the notice, such costs shall be charged against the lot or parcel of ground on which the hazard or nuisance was located. The County Clerk shall at the time of certifying other taxes to the County Clerk, certify the costs as provided in this section. The County Clerk shall extend the same on the tax roll and it shall be collected by the County Treasurer and paid to the County as other County taxes are collected and paid.

## APPENDIX A

### WASTEWATER LAGOON SYSTEMS

#### INTRODUCTION:

The design criteria and construction standards contained herein are for the purpose of regulating and controlling the location, construction, maintenance and protection of wastewater lagoon systems used for private onsite domestic waste disposal. These requirements are intended to carry out the provisions set forth in Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-5-2 to 28-5-9 and the guidelines established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. When properly designed, installed and maintained, odors from household lagoons are infrequent and visual impacts are minimal.

#### Lagoon system:

A wastewater lagoon is a small nondischarging pond that receives only domestic waste. This pond has an average operational water depth of three to five feet (5'). All domestic wastewater must be included in the wastewater system including grey water (laundry and sink wastewater).

Property Line.....	50 feet
Private or Public Well.....	100 feet
Pond, perennial stream or lake.....	50 feet
Public Water Line.....	25 feet
Dwelling from which wastewater comes.....	50 feet
Other buildings.....	50 feet
Public Utility Lines.....	25 feet

Note: Distances measured from a maximum water level.

#### Lagoon Size:

The lagoon system will be sized and designed considering several factors provided on the permit application and soil evaluation. Table 2A shows wastewater pond designs.

**Table 2A**

<b><u>Design Size</u></b>	<b><u>Water Surface</u></b>	<b><u>Bottom</u></b>	<b><u>Top</u></b>	<b><u>Slope</u></b>
M35	35'	5'x5'	47'x47'	3:1
M40	40'	10'x10'	52'x52'	3:1
M45	45'	10'x10'	59'x59'	3:5 to 1
M50	50'	15'x15'	64'x64'	3:1 to 1

### **Sewer Line to Lagoon:**

The sewer line from the residence to the lagoon shall be a minimum of a four (4") inch diameter solid pipe. Schedule 40 or heavier is preferred, but SDR 35 will be approved. However, under high traffic areas, such as under a driveway, Schedule 80 or heavier pipe must be utilized or the pipe is required to be double encased. All joints will have solvent welded joints.

Minimum slope of the line shall be 1/8 inch per foot (1 foot per 100 feet). The maximum slope shall not exceed 3/8 inch per foot or 3 feet per 100 feet. Sewer line slopes should not vary in order to avoid accumulation of solids in the pipe.

The trench bottom should be undisturbed soil and free of rocks or other material that could rupture the line. Backfill shall be compacted around the sides of the line at least 2 inches over the top of the line. The remainder of the trench shall be filled and mounded over the trench to allow for settling.

At least two (2) clean outs shall be provided. One clean out shall be located just outside the house (or inside) and the second shall be located near the lagoon. Additionally, a clean out is highly recommended every 100 feet or at every change in directions of the sewer line. Clean outs may be a "T" or "Y" the same size as the sewer line.

The line should enter below the water surface and at least 18 inches above the bottom and should extend to near the center of the lagoon. The end should be anchored and supported. A splash pad of at least 2 feet by 2 feet must be placed under the pipe outlet location. A splash pad is a concrete or flat rock pad and is essential to prevent the disruption of a lagoon seal.

### **Construction:**

Any type of construction equipment may be used to build the wastewater pond. However, it is essential to have firm compaction of the lagoon area and berms. Construction shall not be done when the soil is muddy or excessively soft. Muddy soil is difficult to work and forms clods, which can prevent smoothing of the top of the dike. Excessively dry soil does not allow for proper soil compaction. When a backhoe is used for construction, additional compaction may be necessary.

Topsoil shall be removed from the pond and dike area before beginning the embankment construction and should be stockpiled for later use on the embankment.

Embankment slopes shall not be steeper than 3 feet (horizontal) to 1 foot (vertical).

The slopes shall ensure that the minimum design size of the pond maintains at least two feet of freeboard above the normal functional pond depth of five feet. The top of the slope berm shall have a minimum width of four feet. Surface water shall be diverted from the lagoon by constructing a diversion terrace around the upslope side of the lagoon (when required by the Authorized Representative.)

The pond bottom and embankment surfaces shall be of uniform slope and free of rocks, slope debris, ridges and ruts that may interfere with mowing the embankment.

Topsoil should be replaced on embankment surface once the lagoon is completed. Perennial groundcover is necessary to reduce erosion. Groundcover shall be seeded as soon as it is feasible to plant the desired groundcover choice. A protective straw or hay cover mulch is encouraged to hold the soil and seed in place until the cover is established.

Figure 1: depicts a typically constructed wastewater lagoon system.

### Fencing Requirements

The legal liability created by the wastewater lagoon lies entirely with the landowner and/or resident. To help protect the landowner and resident from liability exposure, the pond area must be fenced. The following fencing requirements are minimum standards. If these standards are not adequate to keep children or animals out of the lagoon area, the landowner is responsible for constructing and maintaining a more restrictive fence that will prevent access to the lagoon.

Fencing diagrams are shown in FIGURES 2, 3, and 4. Fencing material must be a minimum of 4 feet tall and taller is highly recommended. Fence opening shall be no larger than 2"x4" or consist of combination cattle panels or woven wire. Types of acceptable fencing include chain link, welded wire, woven wire, wire horse panels, or combination cattle panels. The combination cattle panels or woven wire must have smaller openings at the bottom or throughout the fence (2"x4"). When using the combination cattle type panels or woven wire at least one row of barbed wire must be placed around the top. If livestock is accessible to the lagoon area all of the fence types should have barb wire and be placed at the bottom of the lagoon berm toe (outside). Without livestock, the fence may be placed around the top of the lagoon berm, but cannot be any closer than 2 feet from the inside edge of the top of the embankment. Any type of fence posts may be used, but solid, sturdy corner posts are required or the corners must be securely braced. Post placed between the corners cannot be further than 10 feet apart. The fencing material must be flush to the ground at all points. Fence must be maintained properly at all times.

A hung gate of sufficient size (minimum of 4 ft. width and 4 ft. tall) must be located to accommodate the entrance of a mower. This gate must provide the same degree of resistance to entry as the fence. A locked gate is recommended to restrict unauthorized access.

### Abandoned Wastewater Lagoons:

Any abandoned wastewater lagoon must have the fence removed, and completely filled in with soil. Abandoned wastewater lagoons are those that are no longer required for its original intent. It is the responsibility of the current landowner to eliminate the abandoned wastewater lagoon.

### Maintenance:

In order for a lagoon to work properly, the landowner is responsible for keeping all vegetation shorter than 2 feet high. The landowner must take the means necessary to keep cattails, trees, and tall weeds out of the entire lagoon. Refer to K-State Research and Extension Water Quality Series Bulletin MF-2290 "Wastewater Pond Operation, Maintenance, and Repair" for detailed information on lagoon maintenance. A copy can be obtained from the Authorized Representative.

The diagram illustrates a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control structure, showing both a top view and a section view.

**TOP VIEW:**

- The structure is a square basin with a rounded interior.
- A **Berm** is located around the perimeter of the basin.
- A **Concrete splash pad** is located in the center of the basin.
- A **4 or 6 in. household sewer** pipe enters the basin from the right and exits on the left.
- A **Min gate width = 4 ft** is indicated for the gate structure.
- A **Fence** is located around the perimeter of the basin.
- The label **TOP VIEW** is centered below the diagram.

**SECTION VIEW:**

- The structure is a trapezoidal basin with a **Min 7 ft** depth.
- A **Dike Berm** is located around the perimeter of the basin.
- A **Min. Width 4 ft** is indicated for the gate structure.
- A **Fence** is located around the perimeter of the basin.
- The **Water Level** is indicated by a dashed line.
- A **2' Freeboard** is indicated above the water level.
- The **Capped Cleanout Line** is located on the right side of the basin.
- The **4 or 6 in. household sewer** pipe enters the basin from the right and exits on the left.
- The **1 ft** and **3.5 ft** dimensions are indicated for the basin's width and depth.
- The **1/8 - 1/4 inch per foot slope or 1 - 2%** is indicated for the sewer pipe.
- The label **SECTION VIEW** is centered below the diagram.

**NOT TO SCALE**

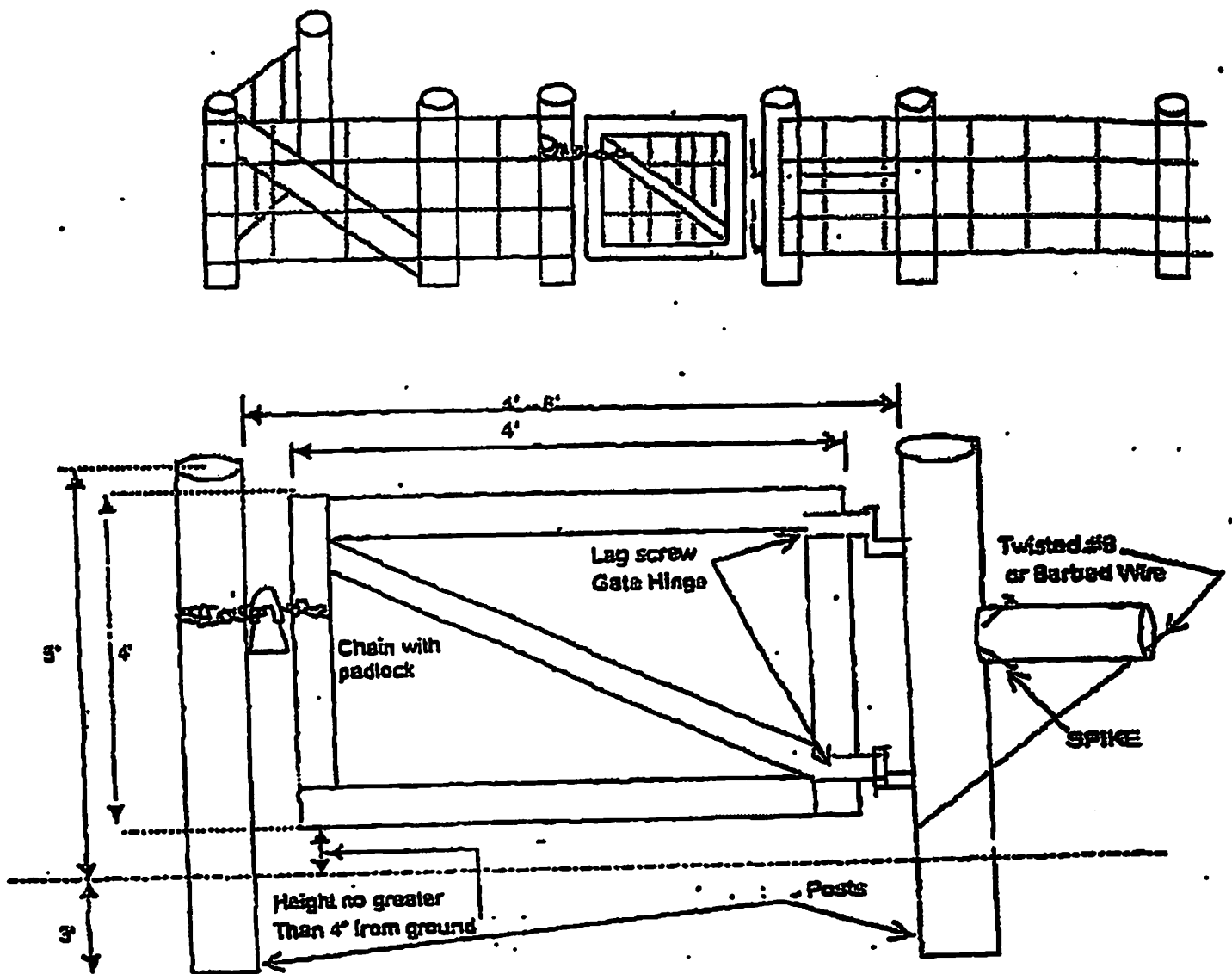
**APPROVED**

## Kansas Department of



FIGURE 2: Acceptable bracing and design for lagoon.

FENCING:  
STANDARD HUNG GATE - "H" STYLE BRACING



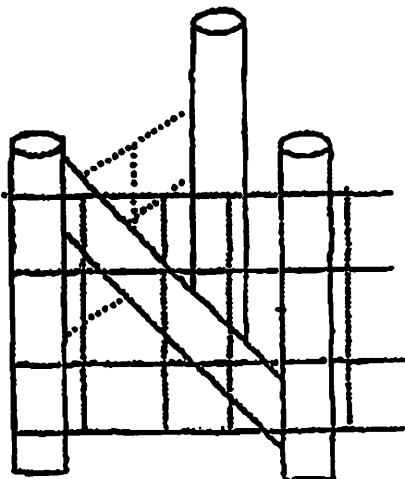
**APPROVED**

**MAR 06 2002**

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Health and Environment**

**FIGURE 3: Acceptable bracing and design for household lagoon.**

### STANDARD BRACING FOR CORNERS - "N" STYLE



2" x 4" Welded Wire or  
Chain Link Fencing or combination cattle panel  
with barb wire on top

Post Material: Osage Orange or

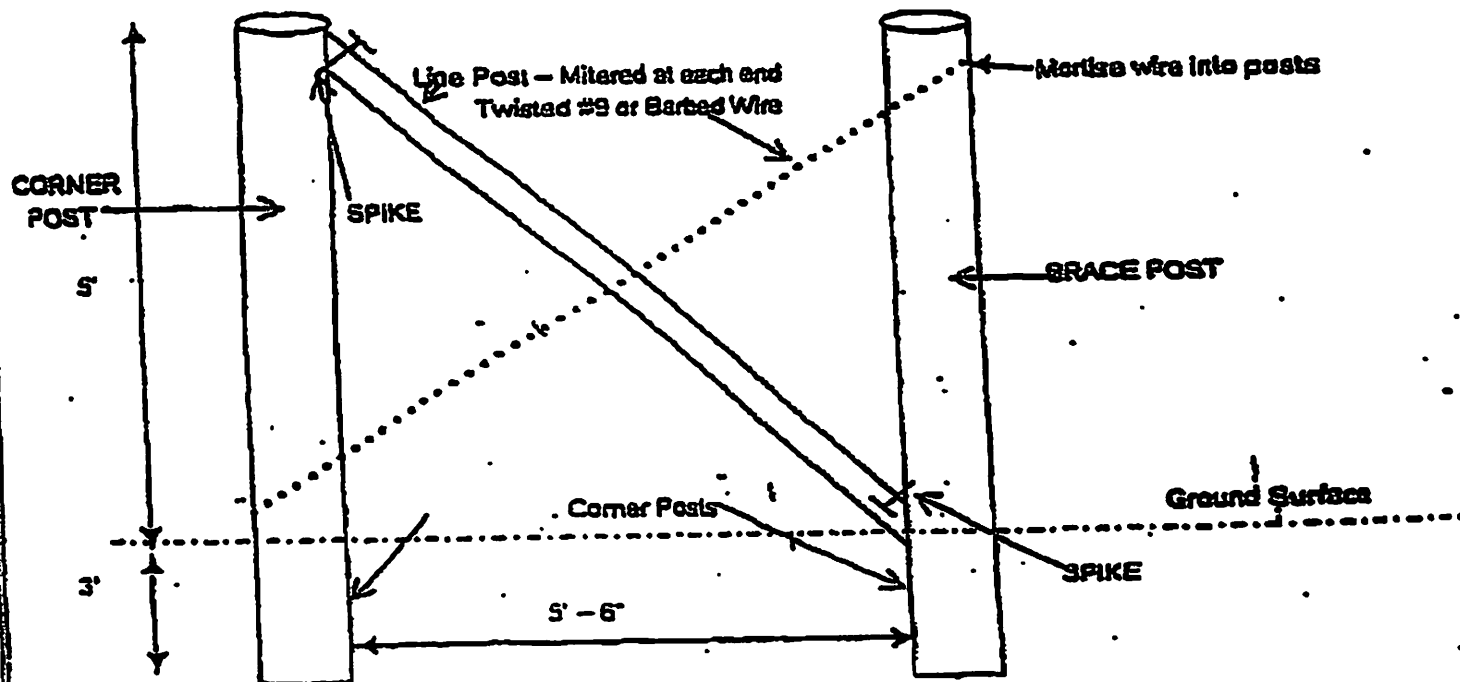
Pressure treated Creosote Post or pipe (steel)  
Line posts can be any suitable material

Corner Post Size: 8" - 10" X 5" Top minimums

Line Post 6" X 3 1/4" Top minimums

Use Fence Staples - 1 1/2" Long

Wire: #9 or 4 Strand Twisted,  
Barbed Wire



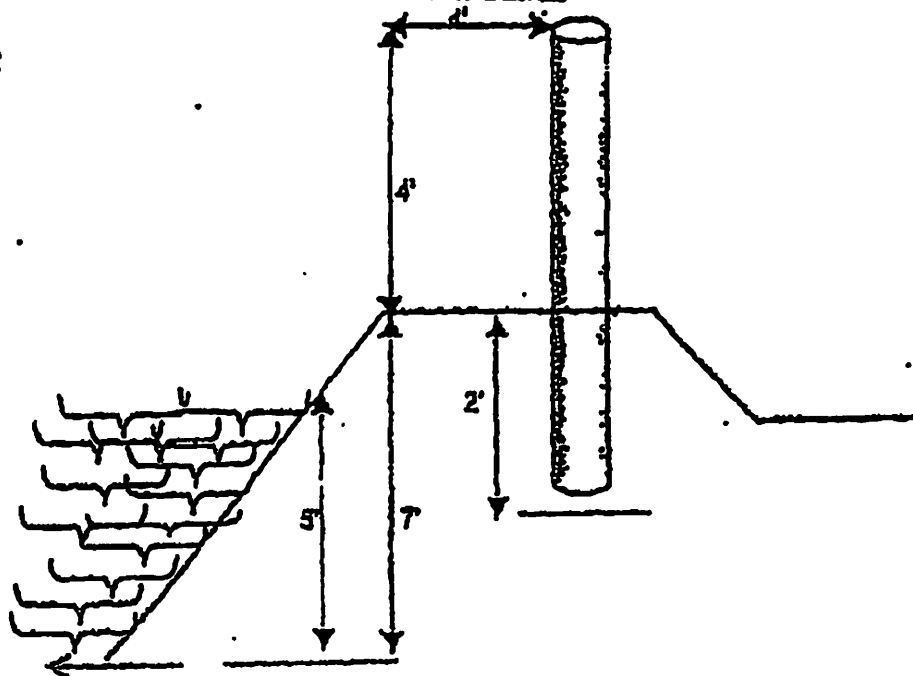
**APPROVED**

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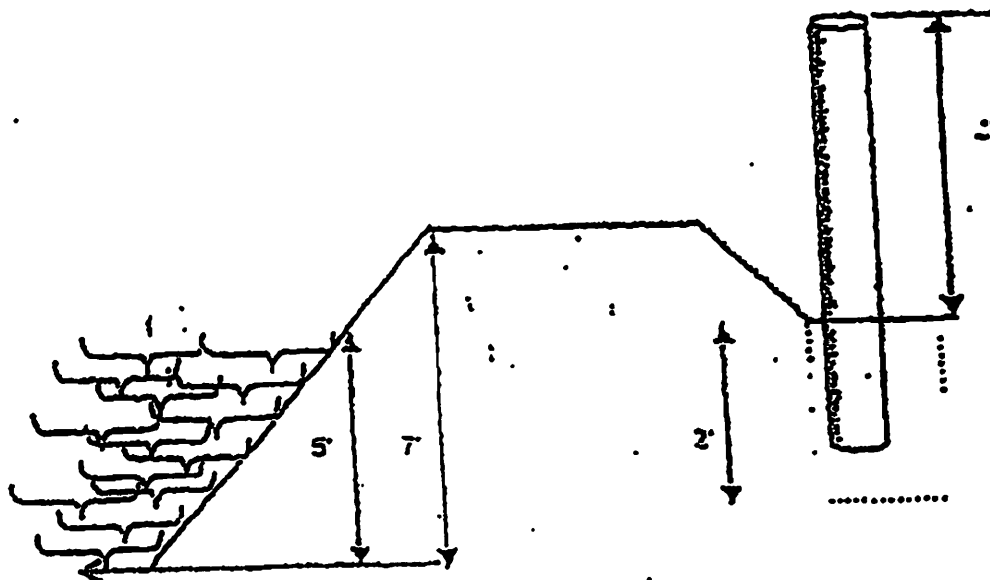
Kansas Department of

# PROPER LOCATION FOR WASTEWATER LAGOON FENCE

FIGURE 4:



No Livestock



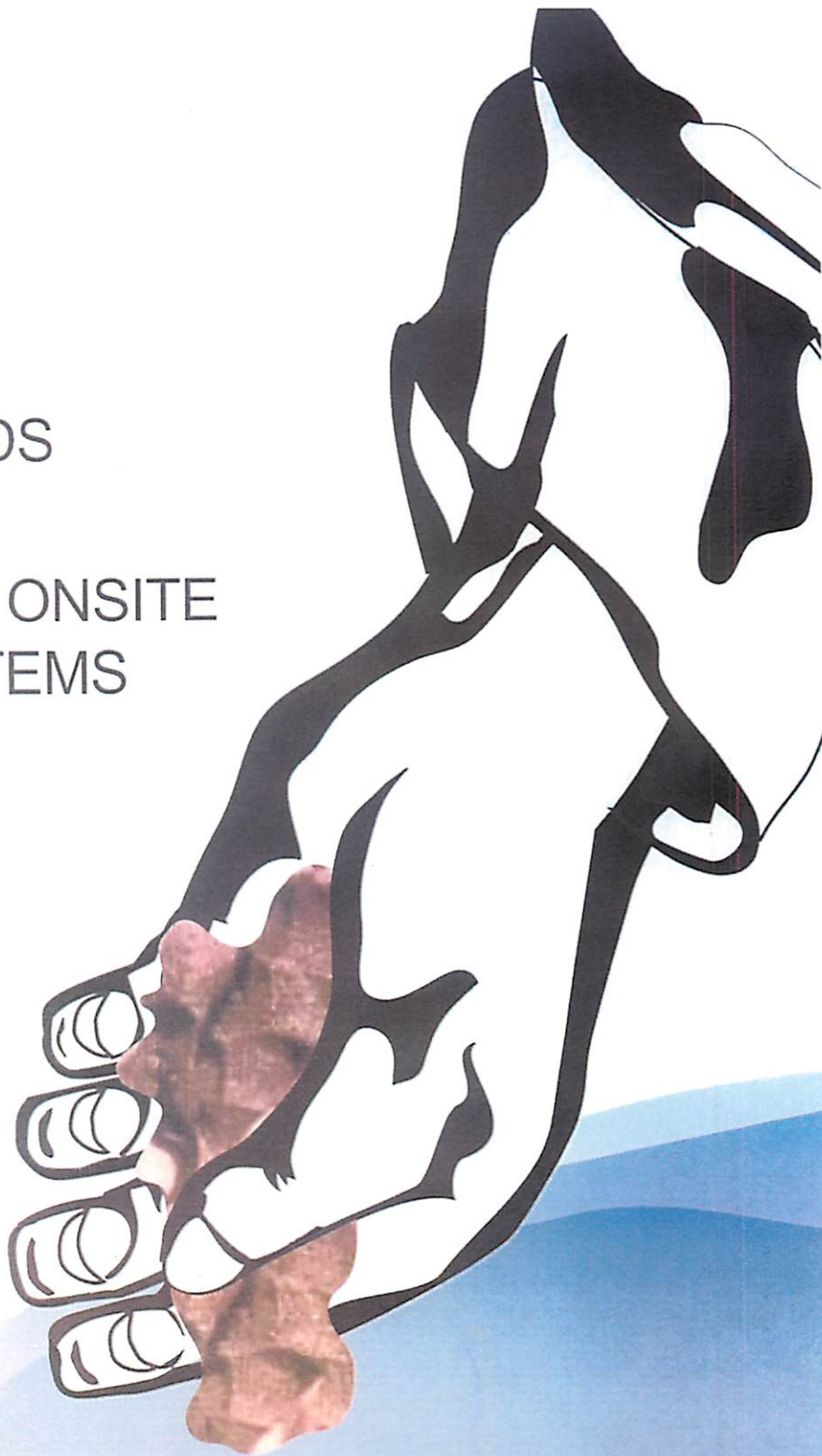
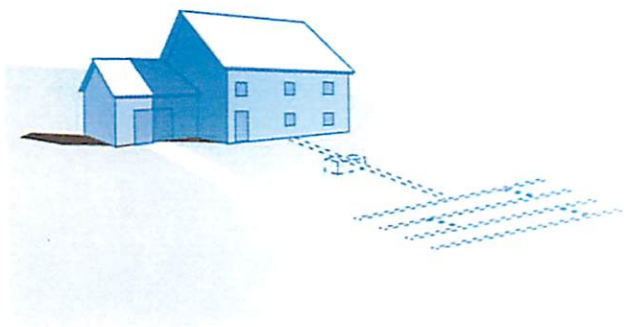
Livestock OR No Livestock **APPROVED**

MAR. 6 2002

**State of Kansas  
Department of Health  
and Environment**

*Bulletin 4-2, March 1997*

**MINIMUM STANDARDS  
FOR DESIGN AND  
CONSTRUCTION OF ONSITE  
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**



Bureau of Water—Nonpoint Source Section  
Forbes Field, Bldg. 283  
Topeka KS 66620  
(785) 296-4195

In Cooperation with  
K-State Research and Extension

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## Introduction

Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R. 28-5-6 to 9) authorize the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to establish minimum standards for septic tank-lateral fields. KDHE bulletin 4-2: *Minimum Standards for Design and Construction of Onsite Wastewater Systems* fulfills that purpose. The minimum standards presented in this document are intended to ensure domestic wastewater is managed so that:

- Quality of surface and groundwater is protected for drinking water, recreation, aquatic life support, irrigation, and industrial uses.
- A breeding place or habitat will not be created for insects, rodents, and other vectors that may later contact food, people, pets, or drinking water.
- Wastewater will not be exposed on the ground surface where it can be contacted by children and/or pets, creating a significant health hazard.
- State and federal laws and local regulations governing water pollution or wastewater disposal will be met.
- Nuisance conditions or obnoxious odors and unsightliness will be avoided.

Bulletin 4-2 is not intended to provide an in-depth discussion of the rationale for these standards. For more information, see the *Environmental Health Handbook* and resources identified therein as well as other references in Appendix B (page 16). Most county health departments have a copy of this handbook, or copies are available at cost from Kansas State University, Extension Biological and Agricultural Engineering (see Appendix B).

Local governments have the authority to adopt minimum requirements (codes) for onsite wastewater management systems, to approve individual plans, to issue permits for construction, to issue permits for operation, and to grant variances. County sanitary (environmental) codes specify local design and permitting requirements. Compliance with these requirements helps prevent illness caused by environmental contamination and protects surface and groundwater.

**Some local requirements, such as those in wellhead protection or sensitive groundwater areas, may be more stringent than those established in Bulletin 4-2. Often, these stricter requirements provide greater protection of public health and the environment, especially where water resources are vulnerable to contamination.**

Sanitary codes are adopted and administered by local government usually through county health departments. The local administering authority should always be contacted before any time or money is invested in system design, plans, installation, or repairs.

If there is no local code, landowners are required to comply with Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-5-6 to 9 and minimum standards in this bulletin. If no assistance is available from the health department or other local authority, contact your county Extension Office or KDHE, Bureau of Water, phone (785) 296-4195, or the nearest KDHE District Office (see inside back cover).

K.A.R. 28-5-6 stipulates that all domestic wastewater shall be discharged to an approved sewage collection system or an approved lagoon, septic system, or alternative system. Domestic wastewater means all waterborne wastes produced at family dwellings in connection with ordinary living including kitchen, toilet, laundry, shower, and bath tub wastewater. It also includes similar type wastewater, produced at businesses, churches, industrial, and commercial facilities or establishments.

Wastewater from a home shall be discharged to a properly designed and maintained septic tank-soil absorption field or wastewater pond, an approved alternative treatment and disposal system, or a permitted sewage treatment plant. Seepage pits, cesspools, and dry wells (rat holes) are not permitted. This bulletin provides information on conventional soil absorption fields, wastewater ponds, and alternatives that may be considered when conventional absorption fields or ponds are not suitable.

Bulletin 4-2 covers five basic elements of proper septic tank-lateral field system design:

1. wastewater flow,
2. soil and site evaluation,
3. septic tank standards, for design, construction and installation,
4. lateral field design and construction, and
5. system maintenance.

This bulletin also addresses basic principles for wastewater ponds.

This bulletin is intended to provide information on treatment of domestic wastewater. Domestic wastewater excludes surface runoff from roof, paved areas, or other surfaces; subsurface drainage from springs, foundation drains, and sump pump; or cooling water. Industrial or commercial wastewater (from shops, manufacturing, car washes, etc.) is not permitted to be discharged to an onsite soil absorption system, so it shall not be mixed with domestic wastewater.

By following the standards established in Bulletin 4-2 and your county's sanitary code, you actively contribute to protecting the environment and quality of life for your family, your neighbors, your community, and other Kansans. Your contribution is appreciated!

## Wastewater Flows

One major concern in the design of household wastewater systems is the quantity of wastewater generated daily. The system must have enough capacity to accommodate and treat this total flow. Normal contributions to this flow will come from bathroom, kitchen, and laundry facilities. Kansas regulations require that all domestic wastewater be treated and disposed through the onsite system. Surface runoff from roofs and paved areas, subsurface drainage from footing drains and sump pumps and cooling water are not domestic wastewater and must be excluded from soil absorption systems. Such water may be used to help maintain the operating water level in wastewater ponds.

Design flow is estimated by multiplying the number of household bedrooms by 150 gallons per day (gpd). This is based on 75 gallons per person per day for two people in each bedroom<sup>1</sup>. This accounts for the number of people that can occupy the home for extended periods rather than how many actually live there when the system is installed. Houses frequently experience a change in ownership or occupancy over the life of the wastewater system. When calculating wastewater flow, note that a water softener may increase water use by as much as 10 gallons per capita per day or possibly more where water is very hard.

## Site and Soil Evaluation

Although the septic tank is important for removing solids from the wastewater, more of the wastewater treatment is provided by the soil. Microorganisms living in the soil profile feed on organic matter in the wastewater, treating and purifying the water as they grow. Four feet of aerated soil below the bottom of the absorption field is necessary to ensure adequate treatment of the wastewater before it reaches the water table or flows laterally due to a restrictive condition.

In sandy soil, it is recommended that as much vertical separation as possible be provided. An understanding of the soil is necessary to assess the ability of the site to provide good wastewater treatment. Soil must absorb the septic tank effluent, treat the wastewater, and transmit treated wastewater away from the soil absorption areas.

The site evaluation begins by reviewing available information such as a published soil survey and then evaluating the soil on site. County soil survey reports are usually available from the local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly Soil Conservation Service). Contact your local NRCS office, county conservation district or Extension office for a copy of the report.

The soil survey provides general information and serves as a guide to the soil conditions. Sites characterized by slow permeability, restrictive subsoil layer, shallow soil over rock, high groundwater, poor drainage, or steep slopes, as identified in the soil survey, have moderate to

TABLE 1—Soil Limitation Ratings Used by NRCS For Wastewater Absorption Fields

Property	LIMITS			Restriction or Feature
	Slight	Moderate	Severe	
USDA Texture	—	—	Ice	Permafrost (not found in Kansas)
Flooding	None, Protected	Rare	Common	Flood water inundates site
Depth to Bedrock (in.)	<sup>2</sup> > 72	40-72	<sup>3</sup> < 40	Bedrock or weathered bedrock restricts water movement or reduces treatment capacity
Depth to Cemented Pan (in.)	> 72	40-72	< 40	Reduces water and air movement
Depth to High Water Table, (ft. below surface)	> 6	4-6	< 4	Saturated soil, poor aeration, anaerobic soil, restricted movement
Permeability, (in./hr.)				
24-60 in. layers	2.0-6.0	0.6-2.0	< 0.6	Slow perc rate, poor drainage
less than 24 in. layers	—	—	> 6.0	Poor filter
Slope, (percent)	0-8	8-15	> 15	Difficult to construct and hold in place
Large stones greater than 3 in., (percent by wt.)	< 25	25-50	> 50	Restricted water and air movement results in reduced treatment capacity

<sup>1</sup>The 150 gallons per bedroom, or 75 gallons of wastewater produced daily by each person, assumes at least some water using appliances such as clothes washer, dishwasher, water softener, etc.

<sup>2</sup>> means greater than

<sup>3</sup>< means less than

severe restrictions for conventional septic tank–soil absorption systems and other options may be preferred or required.

A site and soil evaluation should be completed in order to locate the area to be used for the absorption field, to verify the soil characteristics, and to size the system. Areas with slopes steeper than about 20 percent will cause considerable difficulty during construction and are not recommended for lateral field installations. Rock outcroppings warn of shallow soils and may suggest the probable direction of groundwater flow. The range of values for each of several properties that cause the soil to be placed in slight, moderate, and severe limitation rating for soil absorption systems is shown on Table 1.

The wastewater system area should be chosen prior to any construction on a site and should be an integral part of the homesite design and development. A soil profile analysis is highly recommended to ensure suitability of the area and to establish the loading rate so that adequate space is available for the absorption field and its replacement.

To perform a soil profile analysis, an excavator is usually used to open a pit, which exposes the soil profile. The soil evaluation, performed by a trained and qualified person<sup>4</sup>, includes examining the soil profile, determining the soil texture, structure, color, consistence, measuring soil depth, and looking for evidence of a high or perched water table or other restrictions. The soil profile should be analyzed to a depth of at least 4 feet below the bottom of the absorption area or at least 6 feet below the surface.

Because OSHA regulations require shoring for trenches deeper than 5 feet for some soils, it is recommended that the pit be constructed so a person is not required to go deeper. Soil below 5 feet can be examined from cuttings, observation from a distance, and by shovel or auger without entering a deeper pit.

At least three pits should be dug surrounding the area to establish the range of soil characteristics that are present on the site, and to determine the best location for the absorption field. Sanitarians, usually through local health or environmental departments, or environmental health specialists, are available to assist in the site and soil

**TABLE 2—Design Septic Tank Effluent Loading Rates for Various Soil Textures and Structures**

Group	Soil Characteristics	Wastewater Loading		
		(in/day)	(cm/day)	(gpd/ft <sup>2</sup> )
I.	Gravelly coarse sand and coarser.	Not Recommended for conventional soil absorption system <sup>5</sup>		
II.	Coarse sands (not cemented).	1.8	4.6	1.1
III.	Medium sand with single grain structure and loose to friable consistence (not cemented).	1.5	3.7	0.9
IV.	Other sands and loamy sands with single grain or weak structure (not extremely firm or cemented consistence).  Sandy loams, loams and silt loams with moderate or strong structure (except platy and loose to friable consistence).	1	2.5	0.6
V.	Sandy loams, silt loams and loams with weak structure (not of extremely firm or cemented consistence).  Sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with moderate to strong structure (not of platy, of firm, or of cemented consistence).	0.7	1.7	0.4
VI.	Sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with weak structure (not massive, not of firm, or of cemented consistence).  Some sandy clays, clays and silty clays with moderate and strong structure (not platy, not of firm, or of cemented consistence).	0.4	1	0.25
VII.	Other soils of high clay content with weak or massive structure, extremely firm or cemented consistence or platy, clay pan, fragipan, and caliche soils.	Not Recommended for conventional soil absorption system <sup>6</sup>		

NOTE: The above descriptions are estimates and assume that the soil does not have large amounts of swelling clays. Soils with platy structure, massive, compacted or high density should be used with extreme caution or avoided.

<sup>4</sup>A trained and qualified person would include a soil scientist, such as one working for NRCS, environmental health specialist, sanitarian, or other person who has received appropriate soil training and through experience is competent.

<sup>5</sup>Soil is too coarse for conventional soil absorption designs, use pressure distribution dosing or other alternative system to prevent too rapid infiltration.

<sup>6</sup>Soils with these conditions may be acceptable for wastewater stabilization ponds or possibly other alternative systems. (See Table 6).



evaluations. A few consultants, either engineers or design/installation contractors, also provide this service.

Table 2 gives the recommended loading rates based on soil texture, structure, and consistence information. These loading rates are based on research that has shown that soil characteristics provide a strong basis for wastewater system design loading rate. Results show system design should be based on the most limiting soil texture found in the first 4 feet of soil below the bottom of the proposed absorption lateral.

Once the wastewater flow (number of bedrooms) and loading rate for the soil are known, the absorption field area needed for the lateral system can be calculated. It is highly recommended that the absorption field and an equal area reserved for future use be marked and fenced so they will not be disturbed during construction. Required setback distances to property lines, wells, surface water, and buildings must be checked and included in the site plan.

Where evaporation substantially exceeds precipitation, as in central and western Kansas, a reduction in soil absorption area may be used when the soil is well suited to wastewater absorption. A well suited soil has medium to coarse texture, perc rates less than 45 minutes per inch and

**TABLE 3—Recommended Absorption Reductions**

	Western Kansas	Central Kansas	Eastern Kansas
Actual absorption area (in percent)	65	80	100
Recommended reduction (in percent)	35	20	0

wastewater loading rates of 0.5 gallons per square foot per day or more. For marginal, high clay, soil that has low loading rates, no reduction should be used regardless of location in Kansas. Recommended allowable soil absorption system reductions and percent of total absorption area for central and western Kansas is shown on Table 3.

Since about 1970 considerable research about onsite wastewater systems has occurred. New information, including design procedures, operating characteristics, and many new products, has been and continues to be developed to help improve onsite wastewater systems.

The soil profile evaluation provides a comprehensive assessment of soil characteristics and is the preferred

**TABLE 4—Soil Absorption Field Loading Rate and Area Recommendation for Septic Tank Effluent Based on Perc**

Perc Rate (minutes/inch)	Recommended Absorption Area (ft <sup>2</sup> /bedroom)	Loading Rate (gpd/ft <sup>2</sup> )
Less than 5 minutes	Not recommended for conventional soil absorption system <sup>5</sup>	
5–10 minutes	165	0.91
11–15 minutes	190	0.79
16–30 minutes	250	0.6
31–45 minutes	300	0.5
46–60 minutes	330	0.45
Greater than 60 minutes	Not recommended for conventional soil absorption system <sup>6</sup>	

**TABLE 5—Minimum Required and Minimum Recommended Separation Distances for Onsite Wastewater Systems**

Separation Distances	Minimum Distance (ft.)	
	Required	Recommended <sup>7</sup>
Septic Tank to foundation of house or other buildings	10	10
Soil Absorption System to dwelling foundation	20	50
Any part of a wastewater system to:		
public potable water line	25 <sup>8</sup>	25
private potable water line	10	25
property line	10	50
public water supply well or suction line	100 <sup>9</sup>	200
private water supply well or suction line	50 <sup>9</sup>	100
surface water course	50	100
Wastewater Lagoons to:		
property line	50 <sup>10</sup>	200
dwelling foundation	50 <sup>10</sup>	200

<sup>5</sup>Soil is too coarse for conventional soil absorption designs, use pressure distribution dosing or other alternative system to prevent too rapid infiltration.

<sup>6</sup>Soils with these conditions may be acceptable for wastewater stabilization ponds or possibly other alternative systems. (See Table 6).

<sup>7</sup>These recommended separation distances help assure a minimum of problems, but are no assurance that problems will not result.

<sup>8</sup>The minimum distance specified by KDHE guidelines for public water supplies

<sup>9</sup>The minimum distance required by KAR 28-30-8(a).

<sup>10</sup>When lot dimension, topography, or soil condition make maintaining the required 50 feet separation distance impossible, a written variance from the affected property owners shall be obtained and filed with deeds.

method for determining the suitability of the soil to accept and treat wastewater and establish the design loading.

Some local sanitary codes require the perc test and other codes require both a perc test and a soil profile evaluation. "Perc" is short for percolation and has become the preferred term for this test to evaluate soil suitability to accept wastewater. Percolation means water movement through a soil. Since the driving force is gravity, most of the movement will be downward. The perc test really measures an infiltration rate for water into a wet but unsaturated soil at the depth of expected system placement. The procedure for doing a perc test is described in Appendix A (page 14). Once the perc rate is known, refer to Table 4 to determine the loading rate and absorption field area, or use another method specified by the local sanitary code.

Separation of the soil absorption field from buildings, structures, and boundaries is essential to maintain system

performance, to permit repairs, to maintain required separation from wells, and to reduce undesirable effects of underground wastewater flow and dispersion. The structures and boundaries to consider include easements, buildings, property lines, utilities, wells, and components of the wastewater disposal system. Minimum required and recommended separation distances for private wastewater systems are given in Table 5.

Many soils, especially in eastern Kansas, have properties that restrict their suitability for soil absorption fields. When limiting properties occur in the soil profile, a variation of conventional laterals, wastewater ponds or alternative treatment systems may be used to compensate for the limiting condition. Variations and alternatives that may be considered are summarized in Table 6. When possible, sites with these restrictive conditions should be avoided due to higher cost, larger land area, and greater maintenance requirements for the alternative systems.

**TABLE 6—General Alternative Option Guide for Moderate or Severe Limiting Soil Conditions**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Shallow Permanent, Perched or Seasonal Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsurface drainage system at least 50 feet from the soil absorption area to lower the water table—suitable for moderate or more permeable soil conditions. This alternative creates drainage that must be discharged away from the area</li> <li>• Variation of conventional lateral trench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shallow in-ground trench—suitable for groundwater at 4¾ feet or deeper</li> <li>- At-grade lateral system—suitable for groundwater at 4 feet or deeper</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Enhanced wastewater treatment<sup>11</sup> by rock-plant filter<sup>12</sup>, sand filter<sup>13</sup>, or aerated tank<sup>14</sup> or other equivalent system<sup>15</sup> followed by shallow soil absorption or wastewater pond</li> <li>• Wisconsin (engineered) mound—suitable for groundwater or other restriction at 1 foot or deeper</li> <li>• Rock-plant filter<sup>12</sup>—suitable for ground water at 1 foot or deeper followed by soil absorption</li> </ul> |  |
| <p>II. Shallow Bedrock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater pond—suitable for sites with bedrock at any depth when overexcavated and at least 1 ½ feet of compacted clay lining is installed</li> <li>• Variation of conventional lateral trench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shallow in-ground trench system— suitable for bedrock at 4¾ feet or deeper</li> <li>- At-grade lateral system—suitable for bedrock at 4 feet or deeper</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Enhanced wastewater treatment<sup>11</sup> options (see I above) followed by shallow soil absorption</li> <li>• Wisconsin (engineered) mound—suitable for bedrock at 1 foot or deeper</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>III. Rapid Perc Rate (&lt; 5 mpi) or very permeable soil (&gt; 20 in/hr)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressurized distribution dosing system to uniformly distribute wastewater throughout the absorption field</li> <li>• One foot lining using loam soil to bottom and sides of the trench to limit water absorption rate</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>IV. Slow Perc Rate (60 to 120 mpi) or "slow" soil permeability (0.2-0.6 in/hr)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual shallow lateral systems in permeable surface soils (each with 60% to 80% of conventional lateral area) with a diversion valve and alternating use of systems</li> <li>• Wastewater pond provided sufficient site area is available to meet all setback requirements</li> <li>• Wisconsin (engineered) mound—suitable for nearly level sites with more permeable surface soil</li> <li>• Enhanced wastewater treatment<sup>11</sup> options (see I above) followed by shallow soil absorption into permeable surface soil</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>V. Very Slow Perc Rate Soil (&gt; 120 mpi), "very slow" soil permeability (&lt; 0.2 in/hr)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater pond—suitable for sites with enough site area to meet all setback requirements</li> <li>• Wisconsin (engineered) mound—suitable for level sites with permeable surface soil</li> <li>• Enhanced wastewater treatment<sup>11</sup> options (see I above) followed by shallow soil absorption into permeable surface soil</li> </ul>   |  |

<sup>11</sup>Enhanced treatment is higher quality than septic tank effluent and may be equivalent to secondary treatment in wastewater treatment terminology, or in some cases even higher quality, comparable to advanced wastewater treatment

<sup>12</sup>Rock-plant filter provides a higher level of treatment than septic tanks. Due to higher quality effluent, the soil absorption field size may be smaller than for a conventional absorption field system.

<sup>13</sup>Sand filters provide a very high level of treatment. Due to this high quality effluent, the soil absorption field may be smaller than that required for a conventional absorption field.

<sup>14</sup>Aerobic tanks have poor operating records so an operating/maintenance agreement with a reliable supplier is strongly recommended to ensure system performance.

<sup>15</sup>Promising technology is underdevelopment that may meet enhanced treatment requirements.

## Septic Tank

The septic tank separates the settleable and floatable solids, contains an anaerobic environment where bacteria partially decompose the solids, and provides storage for the accumulated sludge and scum. The septic tank is sized so that wastewater flow through the tank takes at least 24 hours even with sludge and scum accumulation. This detention time permits the settling of solids heavier than water and allows scum, grease and other materials lighter than water to float to the surface before the water is discharged to the absorption field.

Septic tanks are designed to handle all the daily flow a household will normally produce and must have sufficient capacity for the minimum recommended volume of at least two times the daily wastewater flow. Larger capacity tanks usually mean less carryover of solids, resulting in prolonged life of the soil absorption field. Larger tanks require less frequent cleaning and allow for future expansion of the home or times when guests visit. They also have a good cost-benefit return. Table 7 gives minimum and recommended capacities for sizing septic tanks.

Less solids exiting the septic tank helps extend the life of the soil absorption field because less clogging of the soil pores will occur. Septic tank effluent filters are effective in reducing solids and providing an added measure of protection for the soil absorption field so their use is highly recommended.

TABLE 7—Minimum and Recommended Septic Tank Capacities Based on the Number of Household Bedrooms.<sup>16</sup>

Number of Bedrooms	Septic Tank Capacity (gallons) <sup>17</sup>	
	Minimum	Recommended
150 gpd/bedroom		
1-3	1,000 <sup>18</sup>	1,350
4	1,200	1,800
5	1,500	2,250

Two compartment tanks or two tanks in series also may help. If a multiple compartment tank is used, the first compartment shall be sized to contain from one-half to two-thirds of the total tank capacity. The total tank capacity is important and should be sized to retain at least two-to-three times the total daily wastewater flow as shown in Table 7. Figure 1 shows a design concept for a two compartment septic tank.

Tanks shall never be closer than 50 feet from any water supply and greater distances are preferred if possible. However, a 100-foot separation is required if the water source serves a public water supply. The septic tank shall not be located closer than 10 feet from any building, in swampy areas, or in areas located within the 100 year flood plain. Table 5 gives minimum required and recommended separation distances for onsite wastewater systems.

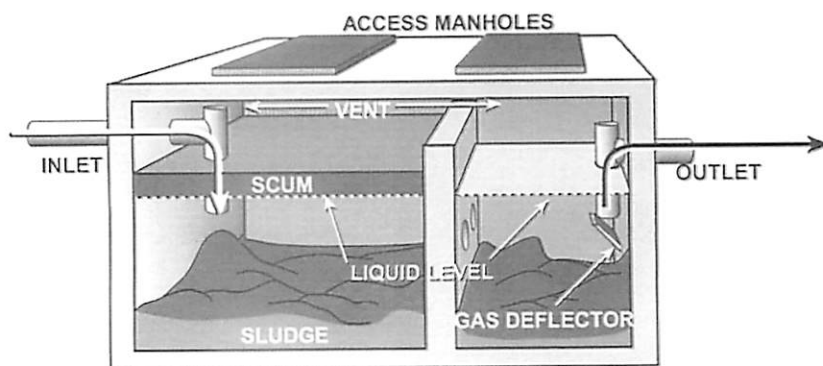
There shall be no permanent structure (patio, building, driveway, etc.) over the tank, lateral or other part of an onsite wastewater system. Consideration should also include easy access of trucks and equipment for pumping, maintenance, and repair. To avoid damage to the system, heavy equipment should not have to cross any portion of the wastewater system when servicing the septic tank.

A sketch of the wastewater disposal system as constructed, showing measurements should be made and delivered to the homeowner for future reference, and filed with the permit at the county health department. Figure 3 shows an example septic system reference sketch.

Septic tanks and soil absorption systems are an expensive and long-term investment. Material selection, design, and construction should be done with long life in mind. When located in suitable soil, well designed, properly constructed, and adequately maintained, they should last several decades.

All abandoned or unused septic tanks, cesspools, seepage pits or other holes that have received wastewater shall be emptied and plugged following procedures described in K-State Research and Extension bulletin MF-2246.

Figure 1—Compartmentalized Septic Tank



<sup>16</sup>For each additional bedroom, add 300 gallons to the minimum value and 450 gallons to the recommended value.

<sup>17</sup>Volume held by the tank below the liquid level (invert of the outlet pipe).

<sup>18</sup>Minimum tank size is 1,000 gallons.

# Septic Tank Design/Construction Specifications<sup>19</sup>

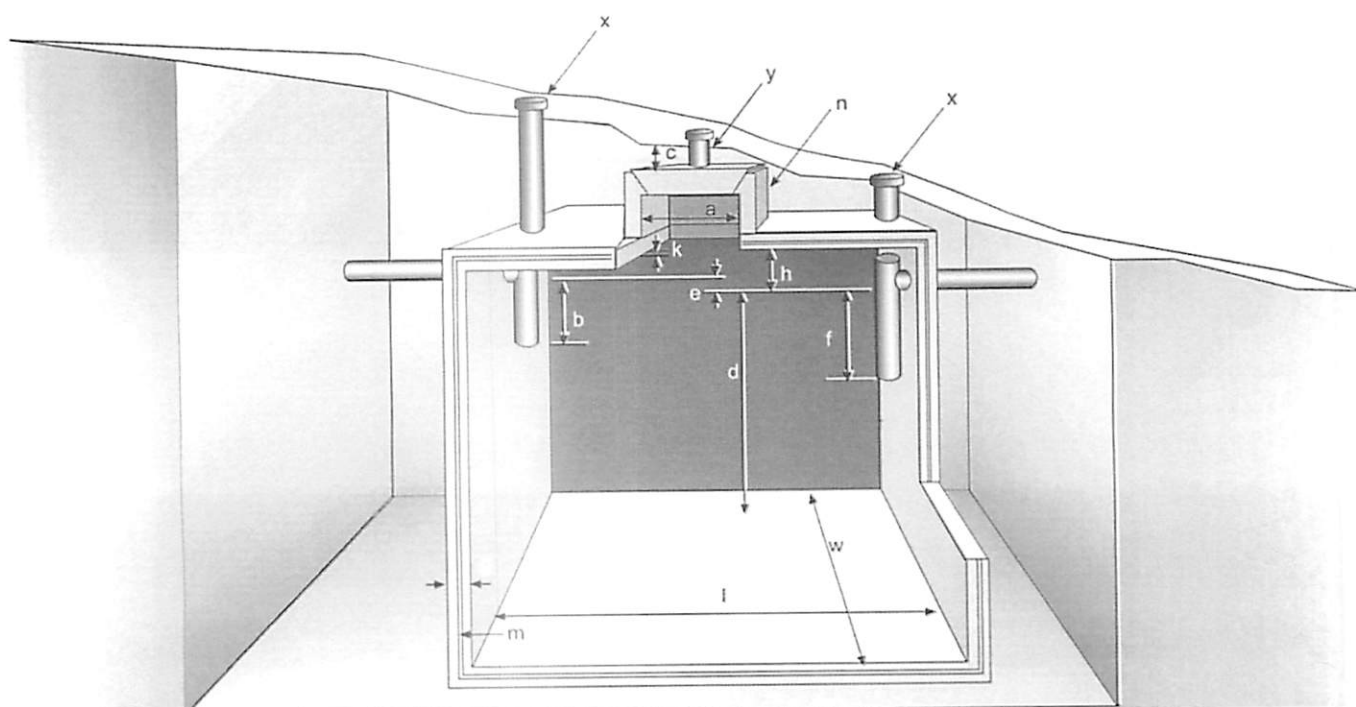
## General Requirements

Figure 2 shows the dimensions included in this section for a typical precast concrete septic tank. The following factors are required of all septic tanks regardless of the construction material:

- A. The septic tank including all extensions to the surface shall be watertight to prevent leakage into or out of the tank. It shall be structurally sound and made of materials resistant to corrosion from soil and acids produced from septic tank gasses. Because of corrosion, steel tanks are not acceptable.
- B. The tank liquid depth (distance from outlet invert to bottom of tank) shall be at least 3 feet but shall not exceed 6½ feet. The effective inside length of tanks shall not be less than 1.5 nor greater than four times the effective inside width.

- C. The minimum septic tank capacity is two times the daily wastewater flow using 150 gallons per bedroom or 1,000 gallons, whichever is larger. See Table 7 for minimum tank sizes. Tanks sized at three times daily flow are recommended and shall be required when garbage disposals are used.
- D. The top of all tanks shall be designed and constructed to support a minimum uniform load of 400 pounds per square foot plus 2,500 pound axle load. When buried more than 2 feet deep, the tank, especially the top, shall support an additional 100 pounds per square foot for each foot of soil or portion thereof in excess of 2 feet.
- E. If the tank is placed in an area subject to any vehicular traffic it shall be certified to meet H-20 highway loading by a Kansas licensed structural engineer.
- F. Space above the liquid line is required for that portion of the scum that floats above the liquid. For vertical sidewall tanks, the distance between the top of the tank and the outlet invert should be at least 15 percent of the liquid depth with a minimum

Figure 2—Design Details for a Precast Concrete Septic Tank



Name	Measurement	Min.	Max.	Name	Measurement	Min.	Max
a. access manhole	smallest dimension	20"	—	h. open space	outlet invert to top	7"	0.15 × d
b. inlet baffle	penetration	8"	0.2 × d	k. space	gap	1"	—
c. cover <sup>20</sup>	surface to manhole	surface	12"	l. tank length	inside of walls	6'	4 × w
d. liquid depth	outlet to tank bottom	3'	6½'	m. reinforcement	per engineering design		as needed
e. difference	inlet to outlet inverts	3"	4"	n. extension riser	length <sup>20</sup> to ≤ 1' from surface grade		
f. outlet baffle	outlet to bottom	0.35 × d.	—	w. tankwidth	inside of walls	4'	
g. thickness	wall	2½"	—	x. inspection riser	inside diameter	6"	
				y. location riser	inside diameter	1½"	

<sup>19</sup>Where locally available products cannot presently meet these requirements, manufacturers will have until July 1, 2002 to comply.

<sup>20</sup>If tank is deeper than 12" add extension riser as shown so top of riser is no more than 12" from surface

of 7 inches. In horizontal, cylindrical tanks, an area equal to approximately 12½ percent of the total volume should be provided above the liquid level. This condition is met if the space above the liquid level (distance from outlet invert to top of tank) is 15 percent of the tank diameter .

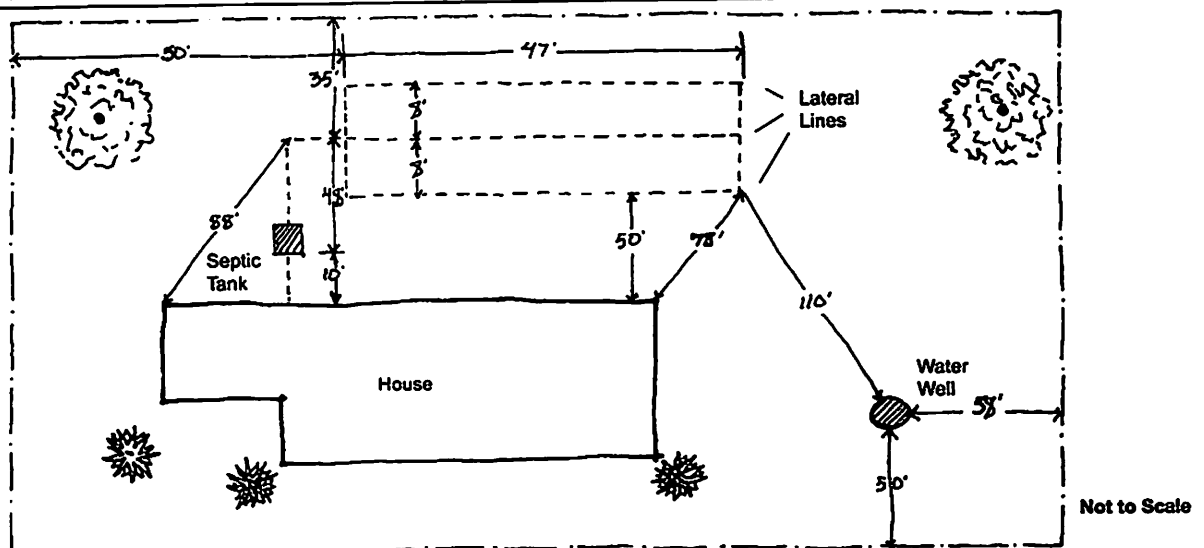
- G. Sewage lines carrying solids from the source to the tank should have sufficient slope to maintain velocities that keep solids moving. For household size lines, a slope of between 1 percent (1/8 inch per foot) and 2 percent (1/4 inch per foot) is usually best. The last 15 feet of sewer line preceding the tank shall not slope more than 2 percent (1/4 inch per foot).
- H. The inlet and outlet baffle or tee and compartment baffle should extend above the liquid level to one inch below the top of the tank. This space at the top of the tank is essential to allow gas to escape from the tank through the house stack vent.
- I. The invert of the inlet pipe shall be located at least 3 inches above the invert of the outlet when the tank is level. This space allows for temporary rise in liquid level during discharges to the tank, and prevents liquid from standing in the sewer line between the house and the septic tank, which may cause stoppage or backup.
- J. The septic tank or pumping tank inlet shall be a sanitary tee, elbow or long sweep elbow with low head inlet or baffle to direct incoming sewage downward and prevent flow from disturbing the floating scum layer. It should extend at least 8 inches below the liquid level, but should not penetrate deeper than 20 percent of the liquid depth.
- K. The outlet tee or baffle prevents scum from being carried out with effluent, but limits the depth of sludge that can be accommodated. The outlet device

should generally extend below the liquid surface a distance equal to 35 percent of the liquid depth. For horizontal, cylindrical tanks, this distance should be reduced to 30 percent of liquid depth.

**Example:** Horizontal cylindrical tank 60 inches in diameter, liquid depth = 52 inches, outlet tee penetrates  $52 \times .30 = 15.6$  inches below liquid level.

- L. Inlet and outlet openings shall be designed and constructed to be water tight for at least a 20-year life of the system.
- M. The dividing baffle in two compartment tanks shall extend from the bottom of the tank to at least 6 inches above the liquid line. The opening in the dividing baffle may be any shape and shall be at least 2 inches minimum dimension with a total area of at least 12 square inches. The baffle opening is to be centered 35 percent of liquid depth (30 percent for cylindrical tanks) below the liquid level.
- N. Septic tanks shall have an access manhole with 20 inches minimum dimension for each compartment. If the manhole does not extend to surface grade, a small diameter (at least 1½ inch diameter) pipe shall extend to surface from the cover to mark the location of the manhole. This pipe shall not penetrate the lid of the tank. Inspection risers at least 6 inch diameter shall extend to surface grade centered over the inlet and outlet tees. All below grade attachments to the tank, connections, riser, extensions and lid shall be water tight. When any opening larger than 8 inches extends to the surface, that opening shall be child and tamper resistant. Ways to accomplish this include lids weighing at least 65 pounds, locks, or anchors that are not removable without special tools .
- O. The sewer line from the house to the tank, all fittings and pipe in the tank, all extensions to the

Figure 3—Septic System Reference Sketch



- surface from the top of the tank and the first 10 feet exiting the tank shall be schedule 40 pipe or heavier.
- P. Septic tanks shall be designed for at least a 20-year life. They shall be designed and constructed to withstand extremes in loads resulting from adverse conditions without excessive deflection, deforming, creep, cracking or breaking. Change in shape shall be limited to 5 percent. Loads shall be based on 62.4 pounds per cubic foot for water and water saturated soil. Top loads for design shall be in uniform 400 pounds per square foot plus 2,500 pound axle point load. Design shall be based on a 2 foot placement depth to top of the tank. If the tank will be placed deeper than 2 feet or subject to vehicular traffic over the tank, a design by Kansas licensed structural engineer shall be done for the specific conditions.

### Special Considerations for Concrete Tanks

The anaerobic environment of a septic tank produces gases that combine with moisture to produce acids. Concrete above the liquid level is subject to corrosion and deterioration from these acids. This corrosion is best resisted by high quality concrete mix. Concrete septic tanks shall meet the following requirements in addition to those above:

- A. The concrete design mix shall be for a compressive strength of at least 4,000 pounds per square inch at 28 day cure. The water-cement ratio shall not exceed 0.45.
- B. Baffles or other interior concrete units shall not be used for precast or poured in place concrete septic tanks unless they are cast or built into the tank wall at the time the tank is constructed.
- C. Air entrainment additives shall be added to 5 percent volume. Other chemical admixtures are encouraged to reduce water content, improve cement placement in forms and wet handling of incompletely cured concrete.
- D. Concrete tanks and lids shall receive proper care during the hydration (hardening) period by: 1) monitoring and controlling temperature of the concrete and gradients (i.e. maintain 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit for conventional cure and up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit under low pressure steam cure.) 2) monitoring and controlling humidity to prevent adverse moisture loss from fresh concrete (i.e. prevent or replenish loss of essential moisture during the early relatively rapid stage of hydration.)
- E. Reinforcing steel shall be placed as designed by a Kansas licensed structural engineer to ensure floor, wall, and top do not crack from moisture, frost, soil load, water loads, axle loads, or other stresses. Loads as specified above shall be used for the design condition. Reinforcing steel shall be covered by a minimum of 1 inch of concrete and shall be placed within  $\pm \frac{1}{4}$  inch.

- F. Pouring the floor and walls of the septic tank at the same time (monolithic pour) is the preferred construction procedure. Very large tanks are often cast in 2 pieces and assembled in the field. All tanks shall meet the same structural strength standard as specified earlier. Two piece tanks shall have permanently sealed structurally sound joints and shall be water tested after assembly. A Kansas Licensed structural engineer shall determine if the tank meets the strength specification.
- G. In areas of high sulfate water (greater than 250 mg/L) more acid producing gases are likely and additional corrosion resistance is appropriate. Recommended measures include ASTM C150 Type II cement (moderate sulfate resisting), ASTM C150 Type V cement (highly sulfate resisting), or coating interior concrete surfaces above the water line. Coatings that provide additional protection of the concrete include asphalt, coal tar, or epoxy. The product used should be acid resistant and provide a moisture barrier coating for the concrete. The product must not bleed into the water and thus risk groundwater contamination.
- H. Manufacturers are strongly urged to follow guidelines and meet standards of American Concrete Institute, National Precast Concrete Association, and American Society for Testing and Materials. Manufacturers should identify and advertise their products that meet applicable standards.

### Special Considerations for Fiberglass, Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester, and Polyethylene Tanks

- A. All tanks shall be sold and delivered by the manufacturer completely assembled.
- B. Tanks shall be structurally sound and support external forces as specified above when empty and internal forces when full. Tanks shall not deform or creep resulting in deflection more than 5 percent in shape as a result of loads imposed.
- C. Tanks and all below grade fittings and connections shall be water tight.

### Septic Tank Placement Specifications

- A. During the process of placing the septic tank, avoid causing compaction in the absorption field by not entering the absorption field area.
- B. Where natural soil is not suitable tanks shall be placed on a bed of at least 4 inches of sand, pea gravel, or crushed granular noncorrosive material for proper leveling and bearing. Material shall be no larger than 2 inches in diameter and bed depth shall be at least four times the largest material diameter.



- C. Access manholes should be at surface grade, but shall not be more than 12 inches below surface grade. Where top of the tank must be more than 12 inches below surface grade, a water tight extension collar shall be added as required to raise the cover. Inspection openings placed over inlet and outlet tees or baffles shall be at least 6 inches in diameter and extend to the surface to permit easy tank inspection, cleaning of effluent filter, checking condition of tee or baffle and sludge accumulation.
- D. Septic tanks should not be placed into the water table (including perched or seasonal water table) because of the tendency of the tank to float, especially when empty, as when pumped for maintenance. In any area subject to high water table or seasonally high water table, plastic and fiberglass tanks shall not be used unless precautions are taken to drain groundwater.
- E. Septic tanks shall be water tight. An adequate test for water tightness is to fill the tank with water and let it stand for 8 hours to allow concrete to absorb water and plastic tanks to adjust. Then the tank is topped off and an initial measurement made with a hook gauge with vernier scale. After an hour, another measurement is made. Any loss is cause to reject the tank. Observations

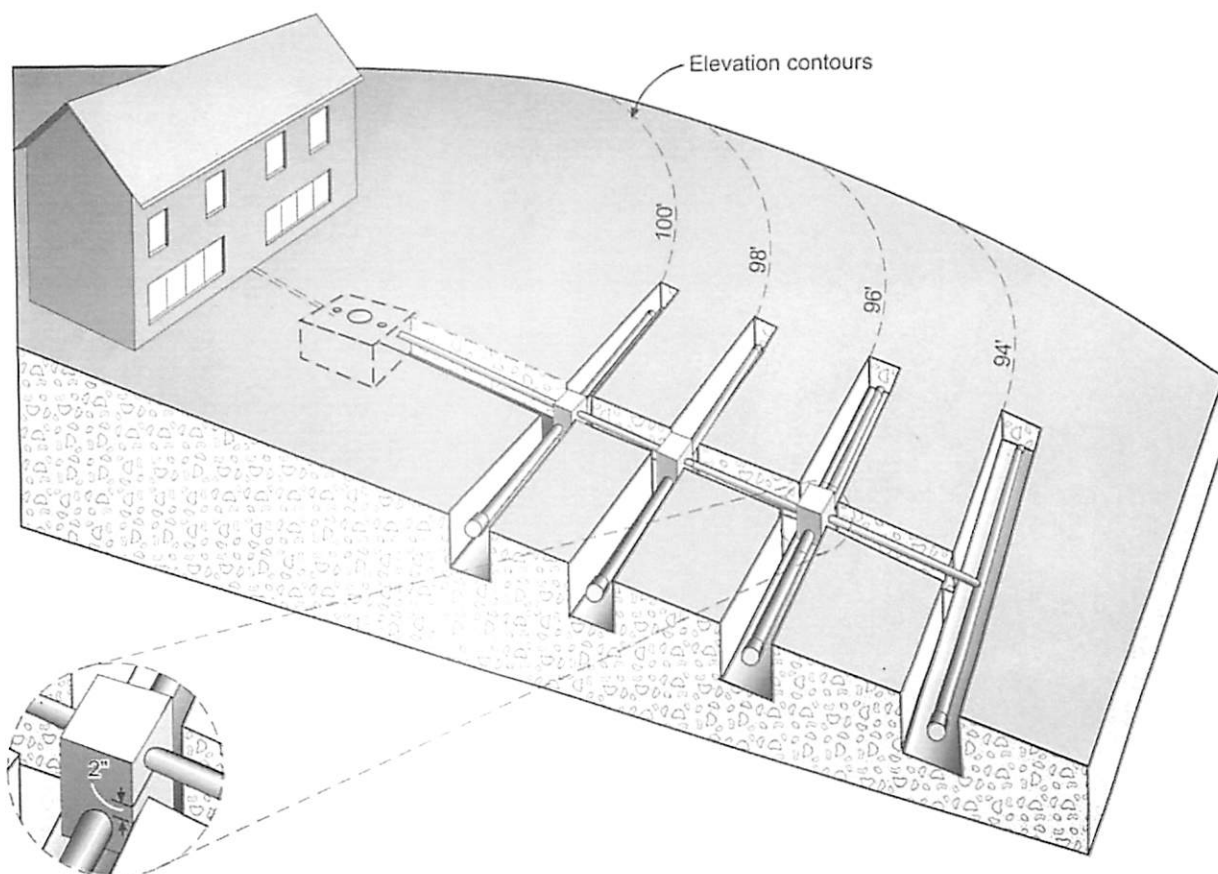
of the outside of the tank can also give clues about leakage losses. Any trickle, ooze, or exterior wet spot is reason to reject the tank. Precast one piece tanks are best tested at the plant before delivery. Two piece tanks that are assembled on-site must be tested following placement but before back filling.

- F. The hole that the tank is placed into shall provide ample space around the tank for access to do compaction. Backfill shall be in uniform, compacted layers not exceeding 2 feet thick and surrounding the tank. Because of potential soil collapse, it is unsafe and may be illegal for a person to enter a trench deeper than 5 feet without adequate shoring. Compaction should be done from the surface without entering trenches deeper than 5 feet.

## Absorption Field Size

Absorption field area is dependent on two factors: wastewater flow and soil loading rate. The wastewater design flow is based on the number of bedrooms allowing 150 gpd per bedroom (75 gpd per person) as discussed previously. The wastewater flow assumes the house is fully occupied with two persons per bedroom.

Figure 4. Typical Step Down or Serial Distribution System



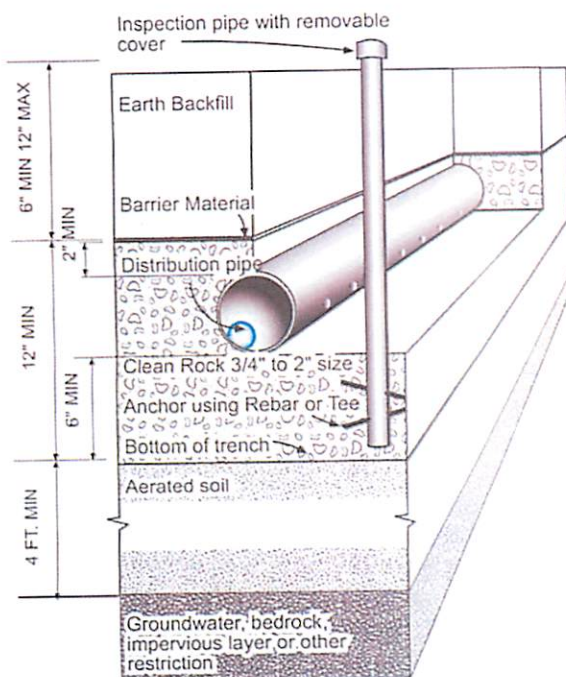
The site and soil evaluation previously discussed in that section is essential for good design. The loading rate is determined from the soil profile using Table 2 or from the perc rate using Table 4 or by using another method as specified in the local code. The soil absorption area is obtained by dividing the wastewater flow in gallons per day (gpd) by the loading rate (gpd per square foot (ft<sup>2</sup>)).

The maximum gravity lateral run shall not exceed 100 feet and preferably should be less than 60 feet. If a lateral is supplied from the center, the total length shall not exceed 200 feet (100 feet to each side) and a maximum of 120 feet is preferred. Lateral systems on level sites with all laterals on the same elevation shall be connected at each end with a level manifold or connector pipes as shown in Figure 3 so there are no dead ends.

Table 8—Trench Separation Distances

Trench Width (inches)	Recommended Minimum Distance Between Trench Centerline (feet)
18-24	8.0
24-30	8.5
30-36	9.0

Figure 5—Standard Lateral Trench Design



### Loading rate example

The following example illustrates how to choose and use the loading rate for design:

- four-bedroom home
- Harney soil. Light silty clay loam with medium subangular blocky structure at 17 to 40 inches
- greater than 6 feet to restrictions of rock or perched water table
- perc rate 40 minutes per inch
- trench width 3 feet
- undisturbed soil width between trenches is 6 feet

### Wastewater flow

Size of house (number of bedrooms)  $\times$  flow rate (gpd) per bedroom = total daily wastewater production  
 4 bedrooms  $\times$  150 gpd/bedroom = 600 gpd

### Loading rate

From soil evaluation Table 2 = 0.4 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> and from perc test using Table 4 = 0.5 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup>

Use the smaller of these or 0.4 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> for design.

### Absorption Area

Wastewater flow  $\div$  loading rate = absorption area

$$\frac{600 \text{ gpd}}{0.4 \text{ gpd/ft}^2} = \frac{600 \text{ ft}^2}{0.4} = 1,500 \text{ ft}^2$$

### Trench Length

Absorption area  $\div$  trench width = length of trench

$$\frac{1,500 \text{ ft}^2}{3 \text{ feet}} = 500 \text{ lineal feet of trench length}$$

### Field Area

Only the bottom area of the trench is considered in determining absorption area. The absorption trench width should be 18 to 36 inches, preferably 24 inches. For 3 feet wide trenches as in this example, the total lateral length needed is 500 feet. If trenches are 2 feet wide, the total lateral trench length is 750 feet. Assuming that a 3 feet wide trench will be used and 100 feet is the length of each trench, 5 trenches, 100 feet long will be needed for 1,500 ft<sup>2</sup> total trench bottom. To calculate the total area necessary for the field, include the minimum 6 feet of undisturbed soil between trenches. For this example the total width is (5  $\times$  3 ft) + (4  $\times$  6 ft) = 15 ft + 24 ft = 39 feet. The total field area is 39  $\times$  100 or 3,900 ft<sup>2</sup>. An area equal to this same size should be reserved for future expansion and/or replacement.

For sites that slope more than about 1 percent, a level lateral system installed without shaping the surface often requires more than a half foot difference in soil cover from one side of the area to the other. On slopes greater than 1½ percent there is enough slope to use a step down (or serial) distribution. This results in the top lateral



being filled before effluent builds up and flows to the next lateral down slope. Step down or serial distribution as shown in Figure 4 is recommended for all sites that slope 1 ½ percent or more and/or result in more than 6 inches difference in cover for a level lateral system.

Adjacent absorption field trenches should be separated by at least 6 feet of undisturbed soil. Table 8 shows the minimum spacing for trench widths ranging from 18 to 36 inches. Individual trenches should be constructed on contour with the surface grade and with a level trench bottom to keep the trench cover a uniform thickness.

A minimum of 6 inches of rock or gravel shall be placed in the trench under the distribution pipe, followed by enough gravel to cover the pipe by 2 inches. The soil cover over the trench should not be less than 6 inches to provide adequate water holding capacity for grass nor more than 12 inches to maximize water and nutrient use by vegetation. Generally, the total trench depth should be as shallow as possible, but not less than 18 inches. Perforated distribution pipe shall be used and, where pressure dosing is not required, 4-inch diameter pipe is adequate. See standard lateral trench design and dimensions shown in Figure 5. Where pressure dosing is required, the pipe size should be just large enough to avoid excessive pressure loss (no more than 10 percent) in the distribution lines.

Variations from the standard lateral design described above allow the designer additional flexibility in some restrictive soil situations and are discussed in the site and soil evaluation section and included in Table 6. Many soils in eastern Kansas have a friable, moderately permeable surface soil layer of up to 15 to 18 inches in thickness. Many subsoils have high clay contents and a very restricted permeability. Laterals placed into the tight, very slowly permeable subsoil frequently do not perform satisfactorily.

Shallow in-ground laterals dug 6 to 12 inches into the surface soil layer and covered with imported topsoil may be a viable option to achieve a workable soil absorption system for some soil conditions. Shallow in-ground systems may overcome marginal conditions such as groundwater or rock over 4 ½ feet but less than 6 feet required for conventional laterals.

The shallow, rock-filled trench shall be covered with a synthetic geotextile barrier material (at least 3 ounce nylon or 5 ounce polypropylene nonwoven filter fabric) before the lateral and interval between laterals is covered with top soil brought to the site.

In soils with still more restrictive or shallow soil conditions (4 to 4 ½ feet to restrictions) an at-grade lateral system may be an option. The at-grade lateral involves preparing the soil surface on a level contour in strips much as the first step in constructing a Wisconsin

mound. The rock, normally placed in a trench, is placed on the surface. Pressure dosing distribution is used to ensure even water distribution and help prevent horizontal flow at the natural soil surface resulting from temporary ponding in the lateral. The rock lateral shall be covered with barrier material before the lateral and interval space is covered with top soil brought to the site.

Loading rates and other design criteria are basically the same for shallow in-ground and at-grade systems as for conventional lateral trenches. The at-grade lateral requires tilling the soil strip under the lateral on a level contour. A pressure dosing system shall be included as a part of the at-grade design. Distribution lateral line pressure should not exceed 5 feet of head. Orifices in the pipe shall be sized and spaced to evenly distribute flow throughout the lateral system. If the area is too large to pressurize the entire system, a multizone design and sequencing valve shall be used to dose zones in sequence.

The use of an effluent filter on the septic tank outlet is strongly encouraged to prevent solids from plugging the absorption field. This will prolong the life of the absorption field and improve performance of the system. It also helps reduce the strength of wastewater effluent.

## Absorption Field Material Specifications

Rigid PVC or corrugated polyethylene plastic pipe meeting American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard ASTM D2729-93 and ASTM F405-93 or latest edition respectively meet minimum standards for use as solid or perforated gravity distribution lines. All materials used in the plumbing, wastewater line, and lateral fields shall meet standards specified by ASTM. In gravity lateral pipes, perforations are circular, ½-inch diameter and are placed at 4 and 8 o'clock positions on the pipe circumference. In no circumstance is slotted pipe acceptable as the narrow slot openings plug easily.

Washed gravel or crushed stone is commonly used as the porous media for the trench. The media gradation shall be ¾ inches to 2 inches in diameter, with the smaller sizes preferred to reduce masking of the infiltration surface. Uniform size is preferred because more void space is created. Rock having a hardness of three or more on the Moh's Scale of Hardness is required. Rock that can scratch a penny without crumbling or flaking generally meets this criterion. Larger diameter and smaller diameter material, or soft aggregate such as calcite limestone are not acceptable and shall not be used.

Fines should be eliminated as much as possible. Fines shall not exceed 5 percent by volume, so unwashed material is generally unacceptable. A simple test is to wash a volume of material into a clear container of the same diameter and measure fines (5 inches of gravel should produce no more than ¼" of fines).

When suitable rock or gravel is not locally available, is expensive, or access to the site is restricted, gravelless chambers are good choices for laterals. They have the advantage of more liquid storage capacity, reducing the effect of high flows or loadings on weekends or holidays. Chamber systems are lightweight making installation easier at sites with restricted heavy equipment access. Chambers also may be recovered for reuse in the future. Before using chambers, consult the local authority to identify requirements.

Chunks of recycled tires are a suitable substitute for rock. Ninety percent of the pieces should be 1/2 to 4 inches in size with no fines. Wire strands shall not extend more than 1/2 inch from the pieces.

The porous media shall be covered with a filter fabric (at least 3 ounce nylon or 5 ounce polypropylene) before backfilling to prevent soil from sifting through the media. Traditional untreated building paper or 3-inch layer of straw are inferior second choices or are not recommended. Filter fabric is required when tire pieces are used as the porous media. Materials relatively impervious to air and moisture are not permitted.

## Field Construction Specifications

Protection of the absorption field area begins before any activity on the site. The site and soil evaluation identifies the best lateral field area and reserve area. Heavy equipment, such as loaded trucks, should be kept away from the absorption field by marking the site. The weight of such equipment can permanently alter soil characteristics due to compaction. Excessive equipment or foot traffic can compact even relatively dry soils.

Construction of septic tank-lateral field systems when the soil is too wet causes compaction and smearing of the soil structure, greatly reducing the water absorption and treatment efficiency of the system. A good test for this is to work the soil into a ball and roll between the hands. If it can be rolled out into a soil wire 1/4 inch in diameter or smaller without falling apart, it is too wet and construction should not proceed.

Before beginning construction, contours should be determined and level lateral locations should be marked by flags or stakes on the contour. Trenches shall not be excavated deeper than the design depth or wider than the design width. Following excavation, the trench sides and bottom shall be raked to remove any smearing and graded to assure a bottom with no more than 1 inch difference in elevation along the entire lateral length or the complete field for a level system. The lateral pipe and rock cover shall not vary more than 1 inch in elevation along the lateral length using a surveyor level or laser.

The trench bottom should then be immediately covered with at least 6 inches of rock or the chamber. Distribution pipes are carefully placed on the rock,

and leveled with perforations at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions. Rock is placed around and over the pipe to a cover depth of at least 2 inches.

After rock and pipe have been placed in the trench the filter fabric or other barrier shall be placed to protect from soil movement into the rock. Finally, earth backfill shall be carefully placed to fill the trench cavity. The backfill shall be mounded above the trench about 20 percent of the soil fill height to allow for settling. If a variation in the trench depth is used, topsoil also must be placed between laterals as well as over the lateral to level the site.

## Maintaining Onsite Wastewater Systems

The homeowner's responsibility for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal does not end when the backfill is placed over the trench lines and wastewater introduced. Maintenance of the system is a critical factor to ensure long life and continued effectiveness of the system. Minimum annual maintenance criteria include:

- check the sludge and scum in the tank to determine pumping requirements; tanks need to be pumped regularly depending on wastewater flow and tank size, (often 3 to 5 years),
- check the baffles or tees to ensure they are intact, secure, and in good condition,
- check the septic tank and soil absorption area monthly for indications of leaks or failure,
- check observation ports in each lateral to ensure effluent is reaching all parts of the system,
- check effluent filter and clean as needed.

Refer to K-State Research and Extension bulletins listed at the end of this document for additional information. A file containing records of repairs, pumping, site plan of the system, annual checklist, and other pertinent information should be maintained for easy reference and for information when ownership changes.

## Wastewater Stabilization Ponds

Wastewater ponds, sometimes called lagoons, are a viable sewage treatment method and should be considered for individual household wastewater where soil conditions have severe limitations for conventional lateral absorption field systems. Single family wastewater ponds should not be considered if septic tank-lateral field systems are feasible as determined by local requirements or recommendations contained in this bulletin. Wastewater ponds are especially applicable on sites with very restrictive permeability, high clay subsoil, (i.e. slow perc rates) or shallow bedrock where adequate area is available.

A wastewater pond is a small pond with a maximum 5-foot operational water depth, which receives domestic wastewater. Size, as in a soil absorption field, is deter-

mined by the number of occupants and thus the wastewater flow, the soil, and evaporation.

Wastewater enters the pond by a pipe outlet near the bottom close to the center of the lagoon. All private wastewater ponds must be nondischarging and must be fenced. Wastewater ponds require a sizable area, including water surface, embankment, and separation distances. Maintenance is required to remove vegetation at the water's edge, to mow vegetation on embankments, and to remove trees that will shade the pond. Odors from a properly designed, installed, and maintained pond are infrequent and minimal.

Individuals considering wastewater ponds for sewage treatment should first check with county or other local authorities to determine requirements. Proceed with any private sewerage facility only when public sewers are not available and all applicable local requirements are met. Refer to K-State Research and Extension bulletins on wastewater ponds for more information and guidance.

## Alternative Systems Guidelines

Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R. 28-5-9) authorize county health departments, or other authorized local agency, in counties that have local codes, to grant a variance for alternative onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems. Most county codes contain a variance clause that authorizes the local administrative agency to grant requests for variances provided that certain conditions are met. The request for variance is filed with the county administrative agency. The local agency can consult with KDHE for technical assistance in evaluating the system, but has the authority to issue the variance locally if there is a local code.

**No private onsite wastewater system shall have a surface discharge.**

When there is no local code KDHE is authorized by regulation to grant a variance. Onsite wastewater treatment options that might be considered for variance include enhanced wastewater treatment options such as aerated tank, sand or media filter, rock-plant filter, or other equivalent system. Design, construction, operation, and maintenance criteria or guidelines are planned but are not yet available for use in Kansas.

Some county codes require that design and specifications for alternative systems be completed by a licensed professional engineer. Engineers should be adequately trained or have experience under adequate supervision, before designing alternative systems. Results show that design by an inexperienced engineer can not produce a more reliable or long life alternative than conventional systems. Some alternative systems involve complex design and specific construction criteria that can result in dramatic failure when violated.

## Appendix A

### Conducting a Perc Test

Water movement through soil in response to gravity is called percolation. For wastewater soil absorption field evaluation, the absorption of water from a post-type hole is a method for the evaluation for soil suitability and loading rate design. The absorption of water from this hole involves water movement in 3 dimensions and forces other than gravity. The term "perc" test is applied to this evaluation. The purposes of this test include:

- Obtaining the rate at which wet, unsaturated soil will absorb water.
- Helping assess suitability of soil on a specific site to absorb septic tank effluent.
- Helping select from among alternative onsite sewage systems and establish a design loading rate.

To ensure the best evaluation, all available soil information should be utilized. This would include assessment of restrictive conditions such as high water table, perched water table, shallow depth of soil, and restrictive layers such as clay pan; soil profile evaluation from the site, including history of high water tables; and description of soil profiles from county soil surveys.

#### Brief Description

A minimum of four to six holes are placed throughout the proposed site of the absorption field and at the depth of the proposed laterals and soaked with water until the clay is swelled, usually for at least 24 hours. The perc rate is measured in each hole and reported as the number of minutes it takes for an inch of water to be absorbed in the hole. The optimum time to conduct a perc test is in the spring when the soil is normally wet. An accurate perc test during a dry period when the soil is cracked may not be possible.

#### Materials Needed to Conduct the Perc Test

1. Site plan including proposed absorption field and location of tests. Dimensions help ensure the test holes are properly located in and around the field.
2. One batter board—1 inch by 2 inch board of 18 inches long for each perc test hole.
  - A. Number each board so that each test hole will be distinguishable.
  - B. Mark a center line on the side of each batter board. This will provide a consistent reference point for the measuring device.
3. Durable measuring device (1 to 2 feet long) and a way to reproducibly locate the water surface, such as a pointed hook or float on a stiff wire or rod.
4. An adequate supply of water to soak the hole and conduct the test. Water usually has to be transported to the site. Two hundred to 300 gallons is usually adequate.

## Procedure

1. **Identify Proposed Site of Absorption Field**—The site preferably should be located downslope from the septic tank. If effluent will not flow by gravity, an effluent pump may be used to move effluent to a suitable absorption field. For new homesites, the proposed area reserved for future use should also be checked for suitability.
2. **Number and Location of Tests**—Locate a minimum of four to six holes uniformly over the proposed absorption field site. If the site is sloping, it is especially important to have test holes at all elevations to be used so that any differences in soil will be evaluated.
3. **Type of Test Hole**—Dig or bore each hole to the depth of the proposed trench (usually 18 to 24 inches) and with a consistent diameter (8 inches is recommended). All test holes shall be the same size to help ensure consistency in results.
4. **Prepare the Test Hole**—Scratch the sides and bottom of the hole to eliminate any smeared or compacted soil surfaces and remove loose material from the hole. Place 2 inches of washed gravel in the bottom of the hole. The gravel can be contained in a mesh bag for easy removal and reuse at other sites. This gravel protects the bottom of the hole from erosion, scouring, and sediment as water is introduced.
5. **Wet Hole to Allow for Soil Swelling**—Saturation means that the voids between the soil particles are filled with water. This happens fairly quickly for soil immediately surrounding the portion submerged in water. Swelling is caused by intrusion of water into the clay particles and can take many hours and possibly days when the soil is quite dry.
  - A. Carefully add 12 to 14 inches of water. Using a hose will prevent soil washing down from the sides of the hole.
  - B. Maintain the water level for at least 24 hours to allow for swelling to occur. In most cases it will be necessary to add water periodically from a reservoir. A float supplied by a hose from a reservoir simplifies the procedure.
  - C. If the soil appears to be sandy or initially very dry, plan to check the condition of the hole wetting after 12 hours or overnight. If there is no water left in the hole and the reservoir is dry, refill the reservoir and holes. After the full 24 hours have passed since soaking was initiated, begin measuring as described in #6.
6. **Perc Measurement**
  - A. Remove the apparatus used to add water to the hole.
  - B. Place the batter board across the top of each hole and secure with weights, spikes or attach to stakes. Be sure that the centerline mark is centered over the hole and each board is numbered.
- C. Align the measuring rule with mark on the board and use the hook gauge or the float and rod to read the level when it just touches the water surface. Record the measurement and time. Fill the hole to about 6 inches over the rock and make the initial measurement.
- D. Measure at 30-minute intervals (does not have to be exact) recording both level and time. If the water level in the hole drops too rapidly, it will be necessary to reduce the time interval for measurement. The time interval should be short enough that the water level should not drop more than 25 percent of the wetted hole depth.

**Note:** If the water drops more than 1 to 2 inches in 30 minutes, it will be necessary to add water to the hole after each reading until it is the same depth as recorded initially. Be sure to record the measurement of the refilled perc hole.
7. **Calculate Perc Rate.** Divide time interval by drop in water level to find the perc rate in minutes per inch (mpi).

Examples:

If the drop is  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches in 25 minutes:

$$\frac{25}{\frac{5}{8}} = 25 \times \frac{8}{5} = 40 \text{ mpi}$$

If the drop is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in 12 minutes:

$$\frac{12}{1\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{12}{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{12 \times 2}{3} = 8 \text{ mpi}$$
  - A. Continue measurements until each of three consecutive calculated rates varies by no more than 10 percent from the average of the three rates. Use the average of three rates as the value for that hole

Example:  
Rates of 26.0, 28.0, and 30.5 mpi average 28.2 mpi

  - B. Measure and calculate the rate for each hole in the application field. Average the rates for all holes as the value to use for loading rate and bottom area sizing.
8. **Compare with Permeability in the NRCS Soil Survey.** The field measured perc (mpi) should be no smaller than about one third the inverse of the permeability rate shown in the table of physical and chemical properties of soils in the soil survey report. If it is, suspect a problem with the perc test, soil mapping or other cause. A well aggregated, undisturbed soil may have a good perc rate.

## Appendix B

### Sources of Additional Information

Kansas State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service Bulletins<sup>21</sup> (except as noted)

#### Wastewater Systems and Related Information

*Design of Submerged Flow Wetlands*, Special Report 457, Missouri Small Flows Education and Research Center, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211

*Environmental Health Handbook*, First Edition, Aug 1992, Kansas Association of Sanitarians, KDHE, and K-State Research and Extension cooperating, available from K-State, Extension Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Cost: \$20.00<sup>22</sup>

*Get to Know Your Septic System*, MF-2179

*How to Run a Percolation Test*, FO-0583-C, (Revised 1993), Minnesota Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108

*Onsite Domestic Sewage Disposal Handbook*, MWPS-24, Midwest Plan Service, Iowa State University, available from K-State, Extension Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Cost: \$6.00<sup>22</sup>

*Plugging Cisterns, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, and Other Holes*, MF-2246

*Rock-Plant Filter Design and Installation*, expected 1997  
*Rock-Plant Filter Operation, Maintenance and Repair*, expected 1997

*Septic Tank Maintenance*, MF-947

*Septic Tank—Soil Absorption System*, MF-944

*Soil Evaluation for Home Septic Systems*, MF-945

*Wastewater Pond Design and Construction*, MF-1044

*Wastewater Pond Operation, Maintenance, and Repair*, MF-2290

*Why Do Septic Systems Fail?* MF-946

*Your Wastewater System Owner/Operator Manual*, S-90 For sale bulletin, cost 35¢

#### Other Helpful Bulletins

*Kinds and Types of Levels*, LR-17<sup>22</sup>

*Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation*, S-34

*Operating, Checking and Caring for Levels*, LR-101<sup>22</sup>

*Safe Domestic Wells*, MF-970

*Soil Water Measurements: An Aid to Irrigation Water Management*, L-795

*Using a Level*, AF-19<sup>22</sup>

### Standards Related to Onsite Wastewater System Materials and Procedures

ACI<sup>23</sup>212.3R Chemical Admixtures for Concrete

ACI 350R Environmental Engineering Concrete Structures

ASTM<sup>24</sup>C150-95 Standard Specification for Portland Cement. Vol. 04.01

ASTM C267-82 Standard Test Method for Chemical Resistance of Mortars, Grouts, and Monolithic Surfacing. Vol. 04.05

ASTM C452-95 Standard Test Method for Potential Expansion of Portland Cement—Cement Mortars Exposed to Sulfate. Vol. 04.01

ASTM C890-91 Standard Practice for Minimum Structural Design Loading for Monolithic or Sectional Precast Concrete Water and Wastewater Structures. Vol. 04.05

ASTM C1227-94 Standard Specification for Precast Concrete Septic Tanks. Vol. 04.05

ASTM D1600-94 Standard Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics. Vol. 08.04

ASTM D2321-89 Standard Practice for Underground Installation of Thermoplastic Pipe for Sewers and Other Gravity-Flow Applications. Vol. 08.04

ASTM D2729-93 Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Sewer Pipe and Fittings. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F481-94 Standard Practice for Installation of Thermoplastic Pipe and Corrugated Tubing in Septic Tank Leach Fields. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F405-93 Standard Specification for Corrugated Polyethylene (PE) Tubing and Fittings. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F412-94a Standard Terminology Relating to Plastic Piping Systems. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F449-93 Standard Practice for Subsurface Installation of Corrugated Thermoplastic Tubing for Agricultural Drainage or Water Table Control. Vol. 08.04

ASTM D3385-94 Standard Test Method for Infiltration Rate of Soils in Field Using Double-Ring Infiltrometer. Vol. 04.08

ASTM F789-89 Standard Specification for Type PS-46 Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Gravity Flow Sewer Pipe and fittings. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F810-93 Standard Specification for Smoothwall Polyethylene (PE) Pipe for Use in Drainage and Waste Disposal Absorption Fields. Vol. 08.04

ASTM F949-93a Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Corrugated Sewer Pipe With a Smooth Interior and Fittings. Vol. 08.04

NPCA<sup>25</sup> Durable, Watertight Precast Concrete, TECH notes, April 1996

NPCA Septic Tank Manufacturing: A Best Practices Manual. Anticipated by Summer 1998

NPCA Underground Watertight Systems (video)

<sup>21</sup>Production Services/Distribution, Kansas State University, 28 Umberger Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-3402, Phone: (785) 532-1150

<sup>22</sup>Available through Extension Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Kansas State University, 237 Seaton Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-2917, Phone: (785) 532-5813

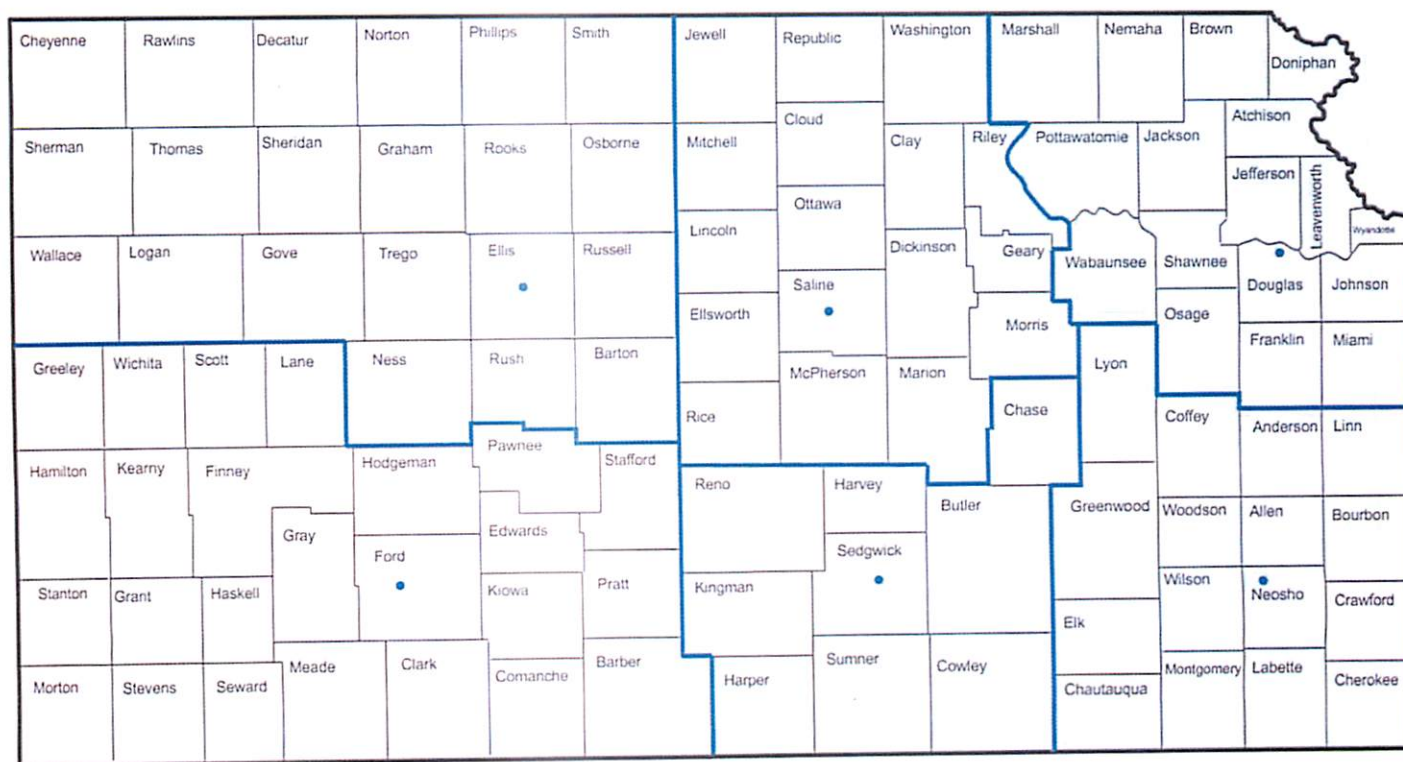
<sup>23</sup>American Concrete Institute, P.O. Box 9094 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333, Phone: (810) 848-3808

<sup>24</sup>American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959 Phone (610) 832-9500

<sup>25</sup>National Precast Concrete Association, 10333 North Meridian Street, Suite 272, Indianapolis, Indiana 46290 Phone (317) 571-9500



## KDHE District Boundries and District Offices



KDHE, Division of Environment, Nonpoint Source Section  
 Forbes Field, Bldg. 283  
 Topeka, Kansas 66620  
 (785) 296-4195

### KDHE District Offices

Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
 Northwest District Office  
 2301 E. 13th Street  
 Hays, KS 67601-2651  
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Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
 North Central District Office  
 2501 Market Place, Suite D  
 Salina, KS 67401  
 (785) 827-9639

Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
 Northeast District Office  
 800 W. 24th Street  
 Lawrence, KS 66046-4417  
 (785) 842-4600

Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
 Southwest District Office  
 302 W. McArtor Road  
 Dodge City, KS 67801-6098  
 (316) 225-0596

Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
 South Central District Office  
 130 S. Market, 6th Floor  
 Wichita, KS 67202-3802  
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Kansas Dept Health & Environment  
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 1500 W. 7th Street  
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