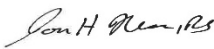




Policy/Procedure

Title:	Appropriate Precipitation Data for Evaluating Gravity in Type 1 Soils	Reference #
References:	WAC 246-272A and Northeast Tri County Health District Regulation 01-2007 On-Site Sewage Systems with February 3, 2010 Amendment	
Effective Date:	October 26, 2020	
Supersedes:	N/A	
Approved by:		Date Approved: 10/26/2020

Background and Purpose Statement

Northeast Tri County Health District Regulation 01-2007 On-Site Sewage Systems with February 3, 2010 Amendment require septic systems in Type 1 soils to meet defined treatment standards and pressure distribution unless certain criteria are met, one of which is annual precipitation of less than 25 inches per year. The rule sites Washington Climate data or other source of precipitation data approved by the health officer.

Previously, precipitation data was obtained from Washington Climate, last updated in 1972 and is what is cited in the Gravity in Type 1 Soils guidelines. Within the Western Regional Climate Center, data is limited due to the scarcity of weather monitoring stations within our region.

Washington Climate is the only data source referenced in WAC 246-272A. Northeast Tri County Health District Regulation 01-2007 On-Site Sewage Systems allows for “or other source approved by the Health Officer” for the explicit purpose of using the best available information regarding precipitation, which NETCHD has determined to be PRISM data. PRISM long term average modeling incorporates precipitation, elevation, and topography data and is subjected to extensive peer review and has been determined to be accurate modeling. Prism data can be accessed at <https://prism.oregonstate.edu/>.

This policy defines how Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) reviews applications for a gravity septic system in Type 1 soils using the Washington PRISM data.

Policy

1. The Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will review applications for on-site septic system in Type 1 soils for compliance with Northeast Tri County Health District Regulation 01-2007 On-Site Sewage Systems.
2. As part of the application review, the EHS will review the application to verify it meets all appropriate criteria for a gravity septic system in Type 1 soils.
3. To determine if the annual precipitation criteria in the region of less than 25 inches of precipitation annually is met, the EHS will review the most recent 30-year average PRISM data to determine average annual precipitation for the project site.
4. If an applicant disagrees with the PRISM data modeling, they may appeal to the appeals board through the appeals process.