



DELAWARE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health Division

Policy Statement

Percolation Testing at Dual Depths

Because of the uncertainty related to conducting percolation tests, the Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) will not allow percolation tests to be conducted at two depths simultaneously over the same location unless the party requesting the testing has agreed to abide by the DCHD policy relating to percolation test results being used to determine applicable limiting zones, and then, such tests will only be conducted through auger boreholes as a means of ensuring that the area will remain acceptably "undisturbed" in the event that surface installation technology must be considered.

Discussion

1. It is inappropriate to assume that a percolation test will pass or fail based purely on visual test pit evaluation evidence.
2. The DCHD policy relating to the identification of limiting zones based on percolation rates will be applicable.
3. The use of "scrapes" to conduct deeper percolation tests is considered to be site disturbance and will eliminate the possibility of the site being immediately considered for surface installations.
4. Because many existing properties have site constraints that limit the area available to install appropriate replacement systems, the risk of site disturbance must be avoided.
5. Property owners and real estate transactions can be adversely impacted if this policy is not strictly followed.
6. The property owner or his assigned agent can request a simultaneously conducted dual depth percolation test over the same location, acknowledging by signing below that they have been provided with a copy of this policy and the relevant policy relating to identification of limiting zones based on percolation test rates.
7. This request must be compatible with the existing schedule of the Sewage Enforcement Officer.
8. This will only be considered when conducting testing for replacement of an existing absorption area.

This policy is being enacted based on the above rationale and will serve as the basis for applicable actions and decisions made by the DCHD relative to site suitability and permit issuance.

Owner/Agent: _____

Record Form #: _____

Property Address _____

UPI#: _____
