

# ON-SITE INSIGHT

FIRST QUARTER 2015

A PUBLICATION FOR ON-SITE SEPTIC PROFESSIONALS

MARCH 26, 2015



## Great Start with Craft3!

Our first year using Craft3 as a septic repair option for homeowners in Pierce County has been a great success. Seventeen loans were approved in 2014 for a total loan amount of approximately \$313,753. Considering we started this program in March 2014, this is a very positive first year.

Without industry involvement, the correction of septic system failures could not be accomplished. Contact [Jihae Yi](#), (253) 798-4754, if you need Craft3 brochures. The list of financial assistance resources can be found at [www.tpchd.org/files/library/92521187599b1630.pdf](http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/92521187599b1630.pdf). Please share this list with your customers. Questions? Contact [Gary Porter](#), (253) 798-6569.



Craft3 is an equal opportunity lender.  
Craft3 NMLS #390159.



*Lending to people, Investing for resilience*

## New Design/Plan Review Comments

After February 23, designers, engineers and installers started seeing some new comments as a result of a Quality Improvement project conducted in the On-site Program. The comments are generated to correct any design/plan review findings, and they are code-based with the code section referenced in the comments.

This was something that the industry asked for and we produced as another way to improve communication from our program. We have informed and solicited comments from the industry along the way, but the real test will be when users receive the comments and understand the corrections needed. If you have questions as we roll out this new product, please contact the field person that conducted the review, or Technical Lead [Leigh McIntire](#), (253) 798-6144.

View the comments here: [www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/on-professionals/](http://www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/on-professionals/).

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# OSS Compliance Corner

## Second Opinion Reporting

Sometimes property owners are not pleased with deficiency report details or repair cost estimates associated with fixing their septic system. This can lead them to seek a second opinion by another septic service firm.

If your certified septic service firm is called in for a second opinion, please address it through a “follow-up” or “Extended Maintenance and Minor Repair” (EMMR) report:

1. Address ALL deficiencies previously reported by the first certified firm.
2. Describe the steps that were taken by your firm to correct previously found deficiencies in the “Comments” section of the report.
3. Replace the “deficient” line item with “corrected” if fixed.
4. If no deficiency was found, restate what deficiencies you were there to evaluate as a second opinion for the record.
  - a. What did you discover during your evaluation?
  - b. How did you reach your conclusion?
  - c. Did you provide the property owner with recommendations?

Remember to inform your customer that only Health Department-certified firms are to report pumpings and inspections into OnlineRME.com. All deficiency reports must be re-evaluated, repaired and/or resolved by a certified professional. Homeowner repairs to septic systems are ill-advised—and are subject to a certified professional’s report that the system is functioning properly. Questions? Contact [Renée Avelino](#), (253) 798-2831.

## High Water Tables and Preventing Tank Surfacing

Pumping a septic tank can be a straightforward job. However, a property that has a high water table with a recently emptied tank is a combination that can result in an unwanted scenario. The groundwater pressure around the tank can cause it to surface—or pop up out of the ground. To reduce the chances of this, we recommend that the tank be filled with water after being pumped. This applies to concrete and especially polyethylene plastic tanks. Questions? Contact [Leigh McIntire](#), (253) 798-6144.



Pierce County: Empty poly tank surfaces due to a high water table.

## When is EMMR notification necessary?

Extended Maintenance and Minor Repair (EMMR) work should be reported by phone or online submission before work begins. These notifications tell Health Department staff which EMMR activities are occurring, give staff an opportunity to inspect the work performed and compare reports to permitted activities. Following are some of the most common maintenance and repair activities:

Activities to report before work begins	Activities that do not need to be reported before work
Pump replacement that changes the original system design.	Pump replacement that doesn't alter the original system design.
Altering dose volume or timing from the original settings at installation.	Replacing baffles, riser lids or installing risers.
Digging or excavating the drain field or transport line for activities including jetting, vacuuming, cleaning and exploratory investigation.	Jetting, vacuuming or cleaning the drain field or transport line when no digging or excavation is required.

You can find the full list of activities that must be reported before work begins at [www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/on-professionals/](http://www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/on-professionals/).

EMMRs can be reported by calling (253) 798-3811 or online at [www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/extended-maintenance-minor-repair-notification](http://www.tpchd.org/environment/septic-systems/extended-maintenance-minor-repair-notification).

Questions? Contact [Kiran Singh](#), (253) 798-4435.

## Stub Out Elevations

When a gravity system is being proposed, designers need to pay careful attention to sewer stub out elevations, especially on flat sites or when minimum soil depth requirements for gravity distribution are present. Unnecessarily deep sewer stub elevations can make a simple gravity system unfeasible, resulting in expensive system redesigns and reconfigurations. Questions? Contact [Leigh McIntire](#), (253) 798-6144.

## Complete Resubmittals

Designers who are resubmitting to address a review report need to make sure that the resubmittal is complete and addresses all the issues noted on the review. Partial resubmittals of just one or two pages of the plan are inadequate—they result in longer review times and can require additional fees. Resubmittals should include the required number of copies of all pages of the design, record drawing or site plan, as well as the revision date. This assures that all date stamps match and lessens the chance of missing or lost pages. Questions? Contact [Leigh McIntire](#), (253) 798-6144.

# Helpful Links to Handouts and Information

Share with your customers:

Septic System Videos  
[www.tpchd.org/septicvideo](http://www.tpchd.org/septicvideo)

Protect Your Home And the Environment  
[www.tpchd.org/files/library/4f5faf13719b1909.pdf](http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/4f5faf13719b1909.pdf)

Selling Your Home?  
[www.tpchd.org/files/library/8d309aa81223db47.pdf](http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/8d309aa81223db47.pdf)

Need help paying for septic system repairs?  
[www.tpchd.org/files/library/92521187599b1630.pdf](http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/92521187599b1630.pdf)

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offices will be closed in observance of these holidays:

May 25—Memorial Day  
 Jul. 3—Independence Day  
 Sep. 7—Labor Day  
 Nov. 11—Veterans Day

## On-Site Program Statistics

TYPE	Full Year 2014	Jan. & Feb. 2015
Building Site Applications	517	166
Remodel	365	58
Repair	254	35
Report of System Status	3,966	587
RME Inspection Reports	10,938	1,754
RME Pumping Reports	8,398	1,302
EMMR	1,209	213

# On-Site Sewage and Well Permitting Program Staff

On-Site General Information  
 Extended Maintenance/Minor Repair (EMMR)  
 Report of System Status (RSS)

Stub Out/Final

Gary Porter

George Waun

Greg Alton

Leigh McIntire

Matt Wilson

Monica Roppo

Robert (Bob) Suggs

Kiran Singh

Kristen Farley

Tina Friedrich

Rich Dickerson

Renée Avelino

Anne Harrington

Emma McDaniel

Jackie Parker

Jihae Yi

Peggy McMurtrie

Vergia Seabrook

Program Manager

OSS Field Specialist Lead III

OSS Field Specialist

OSS Field Specialist Lead II

OSS Field Specialist

OSS Field Specialist

OSS Field Specialist

OSS Office/Field Tech

Temporary OSS Field Specialist

OSS Field Specialist

Well Permitting Lead

OSS Compliance

Professional Certification

Operation and Maintenance

Application Processing

Education/Outreach/Marketing

RSS Compliance

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(252) 798-6485

(253) 798-4821

(253) 798-6144

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(253) 798-4751

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