



Town of Dennis
Health Department

Terence M. Hayes, Health Director

Tel: (508) 760-6158
Fax: (508) 394-6289

ADVISORY LETTER

To: Licensed Septic Installers
From: Terence M. Hayes, R.S., C.H.O.
Health Director
Date: April 14, 2006

For the last year, we have not allowed any repairs to cesspools. In practice, this may have proved burdensome to the occupants, especially if the emergency occurred after office hours or during weekends. Therefore, we are instituting the following policy.

We will issue Disposal System Construction Permits for the emergency repair or replacement of the building sewer, i.e. the waste line from the building or dwelling to the first cesspool, only under the following circumstances:

- There is a backup of sewage into the dwelling,
- There is a blockage or collapse of the building sewer, or
- There is breakout or ponding of sewage to the surface of the ground.

Such permits, and any repairs made under them, are only valid for ninety (90) days from the date of issuance. After such time, we will consider all systems so repaired in a state of failure and in need of upgrade in full compliance with 310 CMR 15.000: **THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CODE, TITLE 5: STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SITING, CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION, UPGRADE AND EXPANSION OF ON-SITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS AND FOR THE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF SEPTAGE** and the Town of Dennis **Regulations for the Subsurface Disposal of Sewage**.

This policy does not allow the replacement of the line connecting either two (2) cesspools or a cesspool and a leaching pit. In such cases, the owner shall pump the first cesspool as frequently as necessary to prevent backup into the building or breakout to the surface of the ground until they replace the septic system. Alternatively, the owner may opt to install a septic tank and new sewer line, as outlined in the previous repair policy of May 2, 2005.

