TOWN OF NORWELL BOARD OF HEALTH

RULES AND REGULATIONS - Effective November 1, 2023

SANITARY DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE, MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES & FLOOR DRAIN REGULATIONS

PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Enforcement by Approving Authorities

Any violations of these rules and regulations or Title 5 is cause for the Board of Health to order a <u>CEASE AND</u> <u>DESIST</u> on all septic system work in progress and to impose the <u>CEASE AND DESIST</u> until a public hearing is held and/or the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Board of Health. Serious or repeat violations are considered cause for revocation or suspension of a Disposal Works Installer's permit after a public hearing.

2. Expert Consultants

Applicant's shall agree to pay the costs and expense of any mutually agreed upon expert consultant deemed necessary by the Board of Health to review applications, plans, or test results.

3. Variance

The Board may, after a public hearing, grant a variance when, in its opinion, the enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice. If a variance is requested for any portion of these regulations, the applicant must demonstrate to the Board by clear and convincing evidence that there will be no adverse effect on the public health and safety or the environment if the variance is granted. <u>ALL VARIANCES FROM BOTH TITLE 5 AND THE NORWELL BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS MUST BE RECORDED IN THE DEED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE.</u>

4. Responsibility

The maintenance of a septic system, private drinking water well or irrigation well is the owner's responsibility. The Norwell Board of Health will enforce these regulations within the scope of its authority. However, the responsibility of future monitoring, maintenance, testing, treating and decommissioning remains with the owner.

The issuance of a permit shall not be construed as a guarantee by the Board that the septic or water system will function satisfactorily, or that a water supply will be of sufficient quality or quantity for its intended use.

5. Severability

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any remaining provisions of this regulation. Any part of these regulations subsequently invalidated by a new state law or modification of an existing amended law shall automatically be brought into conformity with new or amended law and shall be deemed to be effective immediately, without recourse to a public hearing and customary procedures for amendment or repeal of such regulation.

6. Validity

The validity of any part or provision of these rules and regulations shall not affect the validity of any part or provision otherwise valid, and these rules and regulations shall remain in effect as amended from time to time, except for those parts or provisions which are determined to be invalid.

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PART 2: SANITARY DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE

In accordance with the provisions of 310 CMR 11.00 Title 1 of the State Environmental Code and under the authority of Chapter 111, Section 31 of the General Laws, the Town of Norwell Board of Health hereby adopts the following rules and regulations which supplement, clarify and/or make more stringent 310 CMR, Title 5, Minimum Requirements For The Subsurface Disposal Of Sanitary Sewage.

All sewage disposal systems must be in conformance with 310 CMR 15.00 Title 5 of the State Sanitary Code and the Rules and Regulations of the Norwell Board of Health for the sanitary disposal of sewage.

1. Notification and Identification

Installers <u>must notify</u> the Board of Health or its Agent and the system designer at least twenty-four (24) hours <u>"prior"</u> to starting any Disposal Works Construction.

Each new lot shall be identified by a minimum size sign of one (1) square foot showing lot number and be legible from the street. The Board of Health's representative or agent may refuse to inspect any site that is not clearly identified with a lot or house number.

2. <u>High Groundwater Elevation Determination</u>

Observation of actual high-water table shall be made in March or April or as approved by the Board of Health and DEP. Evidence of soil mottling will be the controlling factor in determining high groundwater even during high groundwater season.

3. Final Inspections

A distribution box water flow test shall be conducted as part of all final inspections. It shall be the responsibility of the installer to conduct his own D-box flow test prior to calling for a final inspection by the Health Agent and Designer. The installer shall fill the D-box with water and provide at least five (5) gallons of water or a hose with running water for the test to ensure that there is no reverse flow from the distribution lines back into the D-box.

The installer will also provide to the agent, a copy of the #4 sieve analysis results as required in CMR 15.255(3) at this time.

4. Title 5 Inspection Requirements

For all Title 5 septic system inspections, groundwater will be determined by soil mottling techniques by a DEP certified soil evaluator or by actual groundwater observation during the months of March and April in years that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has determined groundwater levels to be normal or above normal, or a method approved by the Board of Health. At any site with dual septic systems, separate Title 5 inspection reports shall be filed for each system, including laundry pits and greywater systems.

Title 5 inspections shall include the pumping of the septic tank following the evaluation of the sludge, scum and liquid levels in the tank.

When a cesspool passes a Title 5 inspection, it will be considered a conditional pass. A 1500 gallon septic tank and a distribution box must be installed preceding the cesspool before the system is considered passed. This requirement does not apply to laundry pits.

A system buried greater than nine inches below grade must be equipped with risers on all tank top openings and the distribution box or it will receive a conditional pass.

A system will also receive a conditional pass unless a tee filter is installed in the system as described in item 7.

5. Mounded Septic Systems

Septic systems that must be mounded because of high groundwater conditions will be designed so that the toe of slope or the outside edge of a retaining wall is a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line for each one (1) foot in height required above the existing grade. The additional setback for these mounded systems will be used to control storm water drainage so that pre and post discharge are equal and in the same direction.

Variance from the above regulation is not required if the applicant can show by clear and convincing evidence to the Board of Health that post storm water flows will not adversely impact abutters. If the applicant intends to utilize the provisions of this section as an alternative to variance, the applicant shall be expected to submit the evidence which he/she/it claims supports its burden in a duly noticed public hearing for which abutters have received prior written notice by certified mail posted at least 7 days prior to the date of the public hearing. The abutters shall similarly have a right to be heard during the public meeting.

All systems mounded above natural grade must include a drainage/grading plan certified and stamped by an Engineer, Sanitarian or a Land Surveyor, as required in Item 19 of this document.

6. Pressure Dosing

All pressure dosed systems must include an inspection port. The port shall be 4" PVC pipe perforated from the bottom of the pea stone to the bottom of the 34" to 1½" stone. The top of the port shall have a tight fitting removable cap. The port shall be enclosed in a covered 7" diameter riser, such as a landscaping type box and must be brought to finished grade. If the port is installed in a paved area or an area subject to heavy traffic, an H2O valve box shall be used.

7. Septic Tank Filters & Vents

All septic tanks shall be equipped with a DEP approved effluent filter, such as a Zabel, Polylok, Zoeller or other equivalent equal. Risers with cast iron manhole covers flush with the final grade shall be provided to allow easy access to service the effluent filter. The filter shall be equipped with an extendable tee handle.

When an on-site septic system is inspected and a filter is not present, one shall be installed if possible. If it is not the reason for it not being installed must be clearly identified on the inspection form.

All septic systems equipped with vents shall utilize a vent filter to mask odors if any occupied building is located within 100' of the septic system. Each vent shall also be insect proof.

8. Trees in Leaching Area

All trees located in the 5' over-dig area or within the side slope of a mounded system must be removed. It is the designer's responsibility to locate the trees and include them in their design.

9. Water Line Setbacks

It shall be the designer's responsibility to include the location of water lines and subsurface utilities on all plans. When possible, the Norwell Water Department will assist in water line location. A 10' setback must be maintained from a water line to any part of the septic system. Wherever sewer lines must cross water supply lines or cannot meet the required 10' setback, either the sewer line or water line must be encased in water tight concrete, global fill or double- sleeved in schedule 40 piping sealed at both ends in water tight concrete, global fill or rubber booted. The encasement shall extend to a minimum of 10' from the encroached upon line.

10. As-Built Grading Plan

A certified final grading plan shall be required for all septic systems that have been mounded. These plans will show that adequate drainage from the system has been constructed in accordance with the approved plan. All components must have ties and elevations.

11. Tight Tanks and Industrial Waste Holding Tanks

All tight tanks approved by the Board of Health and DEP shall be subject to a twenty-four (24) hour test for determining that the tank is watertight. An agent of the Board of Health shall make inspections as required to insure that the tank is watertight.

12. Old System Abandonment

Cesspools and seepage pits that have been abandoned because of system failure shall be pumped and filled with an appropriate fill material that will prevent structural collapse.

13. Reserve Area When Subdividing Existing Lots

When subdividing land where an existing structure already exists it must be demonstrated that the structure has a sufficient reserve area to repair the system in accordance with current Title 5 and Norwell Board of Health Regulations.

14. Renovations

Renovations of more than 50% of the living space in an existing dwelling will be treated as new construction rather than an upgrade of an existing system.

15. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

The ADU shall not be larger in floor area than 1/2 the floor area of the principal single-family dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller and shall be restricted to one bedroom. The ADU shall be located on the same lot as the principal single-family dwelling, to which the lot is equal to or greater than one acre.

All ADUs shall have a minimum septic design of 110-gallons per day in addition to the design flows for the rest of the principal single-family dwelling.

The ADU shall meet all applicable State and local rules and regulations.

16. Pump Trucks

Sanitary pump trucks shall sanitize all overflows as necessary. All pump trucks must carry a sanitizing agent. It shall be the pump truck operator's responsibility to clean any areas contaminated by sewage overflow or spillage. The pumper shall not depart the premises until the area has been sanitized.

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PART 3: PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this part of the regulations is to insure the proper location and maintenance of wells in order to protect the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Norwell. All private wells are subject to the approval of the Board of Health.

Each application for private water well must be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00 for a Private Drinking Water Supply and \$50.00 for an Irrigation Well. Checks will be made payable to the Town of Norwell and submitted to the Board of Health with the completed application form along with a plot plan identifying the location of the well on the property.

2. Authority

In accordance with M.G.L., Ch.111, Section 31, the State Sanitary Code – Chapter 11 – the minimum standards of Human Habitation, Ch. 40, Section 54, and any other powers thereto enabling, the Norwell Board of Health adopted the following Regulations for Private Wells at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 3, 1996.

3. Definitions

ABANDONED WELL: The discontinuance or non-use of a private drinking water well as a water supply with the intent to abandon for a period of one year or more.

BEDROCK WELL: Any well structure advanced into the bedrock surface and sealed by means of well casing from hydraulic influence or overlying unconsolidated soils.

<u>DRYWELL:</u> A seepage (leaching) pit, with or without stones around it used to leach storm water runoff from the roof drains.

<u>**DWELLING:**</u> A privately or publicly owned, permanently fixed structure containing a dwelling unit or dwelling units.

IRRIGATION WELL: Well used for the sole purpose of watering or irrigation. These shall not be connected at any point in time to a dwelling or a building unless they meet the requirements of a Private Drinking Water Well and have the Board's written approval.

LOT: An area or parcel of land in common ownership, designated by its owner or owners as a separate lot on a plan filed with the Town of Norwell and the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, used or available for use, as the site of one or more buildings.

OVERBURDEN WELL: A subsurface structure intended for the withdrawal of water, not advanced into the bedrock and is deeper than it is wide.

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY: A water supply of sufficient quantity and pressure to meet the needs of the occupants of the dwelling, lot, or building connected with a public water supply or with any other source that the Board or agent has determined, by requiring the water to be tested, does not endanger the health of any potential user and is fit for human consumption.

PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL: Any well supplying water for human consumption. Any pit, pipe, excavation, shaft spring, casing, hole or other source of water to be used for any purpose of supplying water to be used as a potable drinking water supply.

<u>WELL DRILLER:</u> Any person, association, partnership, company, corporation or trust that constructs a private well, who is licensed by the Water Resource Commission, established in Chapter 620 of the Acts of 1956.

4. Application

Prior to any Private Drinking Water Well being approved as a potable drinking water source or an abandoned well being placed into service in the Town of Norwell, an application must be filed with the Norwell Board of Health. This shall be done on a form provided by the Board of Health.

Submission of a plan prepared by a registered engineer, environmental consultant trained and experienced in water supply or a well driller shall be submitted with the application for the private water supply. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, a scaled drawing showing the location of the proposed or present well on the lot, all septic systems and other sources of contamination within 200 feet.

5. Registration of Well Drillers

No person shall engage in the business of construction or repair of private water wells or irrigation wells within the Town of Norwell unless they are registered with the Water Resources Commission, Division of Water Resources, as required by the Well Drillers Registration Act, MGL, Ch.21 s.16.

Proof of such registration (registration number) must be submitted to the Norwell Board of Health when the application is filed and must also be recorded on the well drillers report. An approval letter for a private well will be issued unless the proposed well driller is registered.

6. Well Drillers Report

Within 30 days after the completion of a productive private drinking water well or an irrigation well, the well driller shall send a copy of the well driller's report to the Norwell Board of Health. This report must be received prior to approval of the well as a water supply.

7. Installation of the Private Drinking Water Well

The private drinking water well shall be installed by a registered well driller who should take into consideration the method detailed in the Environmental Protection Agency's MANUAL OF WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES, Department of Environmental Protection's PRIVATE WELL GUIDELINES and any other applicable State, Federal or local regulations or requirements regarding well installation.

8. Well Location

There shall be a separate private drinking water well for each new dwelling. The well serving the dwelling shall be located within the boundaries of the lot and <u>not closer than twenty-five (25) feet from the lot boundary.</u> No private drinking water well shall be used to supply more than one dwelling.

In establishing the location of a private drinking water well, the plan submitted shall show potential sources of contamination. All private drinking water wells shall be located the required distances from potential sources of pollution unless the applicant demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that no impact will occur.

The installation of the private drinking water well closer than:

- 150 feet for an overburden well
- 100 feet for a bedrock well
- 50 feet for an irrigation well

to a leaching facility or reserve area, will not be allowed unless the applicant can show that there will be no adverse affect to the health and/or safety of the occupants of any proposed or existing residence. In no case shall a variance for new construction be granted to allow the private drinking water well to be located less than 100 feet from the leaching facility or reserve area.

Distances shall be measured from the top of the well, which is seen above the ground (the cap or seal); or in the case of a well below the ground, the distance shall be measured from the area directly over the well at ground level to the closest edge of the potential pollution source.

9. Certification

All chemical and bacteriological testing will be performed by a state certified laboratory. A copy of the completed test results shall be forwarded to the Board of Health for review. Water samples to be analyzed prior to the installation of water treatment devices.

10. Testing Parameters

The following tests are required for a private drinking water well to be approved by the Board of Health or the Health Agent as a potable water supply:

Alkalinity	Color	Mangan	ese	pН		Ammonia	Copper
Hardness	Arsenic Nitrite		Chlorid	e	Iron	Nitrate	
Coliform	Lead	Sulfate		Sodium			

Other testing that may be required at the discretion of the Board or warranted by the location of the well include: volatile organics, semi-organic chemicals, radionuclides, pesticides, and herbicides.

The cost of all water testing will be borne by the applicant. Failure to meet the current primary drinking water standards for the parameters tested, constitute a reason for disapproval of the Private Drinking Water Well. The Board may require that testing be repeated yearly after the well is approved and installed to serve a dwelling at the owner's expense if the Board feels a health hazard exists, the property on which the well is located changes ownership, or the well is to be used after one year of abandonment.

All water quality parameters at a minimum will meet primary maximum contaminant levels (MCL's) set by the State Department of Environmental Protection.

11. Approval

All private drinking water wells shall be approved by the Board prior to issuance of a septic disposal permit. Site inspection by the Board's Agent shall be made prior to approval by the Board. Final approval by the Board of Health shall be given in writing. No oral approvals shall be valid.

No occupancy permits shall be issued with respect to any structure served by a private drinking water well until the Board has certified that the well is properly installed and operational.

12. Irrigation Wells

Irrigation wells are for the sole purpose of irrigation and shall not be deemed or used as a potable water supply for human consumption.

Irrigation wells shall not be connected to any dwelling unless they are approved as a private drinking water well by the Board. There shall be no possibility for a cross-connection with a drinking water supply line due to the location of the line from the non-potable well. Each outlet should be valved with a removable handle. The handle should be removed except when the valve is in.

A plan must be submitted with the following setback distances maintained:

- 50 feet from all components of a septic system.
- 25 feet from all property lines.

All irrigation wells shall be posted with a placard stating "Irrigation Wells(s) Not a Drinking Water Supply". It is suggested that irrigation wells be tested periodically for fecal and total Coliform.

13. Decommissioning Requirements

Abandoned wells, test holes, and borings shall be decommissioned in accordance with the PRIVATE WELL GUIDELINES so as to prevent the well from being a channel allowing vertical movement of water.

The owner of the private well shall decommission the well if the well meets any of the following criteria:

- a. Construction of the well is terminated prior to completion of the well;
- b. The use of the well is to be permanently discontinued;
- c. The well has, after extended use, been out of service for at least one year;
- d. The well is a potential hazard to public health or safety and the situation cannot be corrected;
- e. The well has the potential for transmitting contaminants from the land surface into an aquifer.

Shallow Overburden Wells may be abandoned by a Norwell Licensed Septic System Installer, if in the opinion of the Health Agent there is so threat to public health. The well will be abandoned in the same manner as a cesspool or other no longer used leaching structure.

14. No well for the purpose of injection shall be permitted.

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PART 4: FLOOR DRAIN REGULATIONS

1. Purpose of Regulation

Floor drains in industrial and commercial facilities are often tied to a system leading to a leaching structure (e.g. dry well, cesspool, leach field) or septic system. Poor management practices and accidental and/or intentional discharges may lead petroleum and other toxic or hazardous materials into these drainage systems in facilities managing these products. Improper maintenance or inappropriate use of these systems may allow the passage of contaminants or pollutants entering the drain to discharge from the leaching structure or septic system to the ground.

Surface and ground water resources in the Town of Norwell contribute to the town's drinking water supplies; the Town of Norwell adopts the following regulation, under its authority as specified in Section II, as a preventative measure for the purpose of preserving and protecting the Town of Norwell's drinking water resources from discharges of pollutants to the ground via floor drains, minimizing the threat of economic losses to the Town due to such discharges.

2. Scope of Authority

The Town of Norwell Board of Health adopts the following regulation pursuant to authorization granted by M.G.L. c.111 s.31 and s.122. The regulation shall apply, as specified herein, to all applicable facilities, **old and new**, within Zone II areas in the Town of Norwell.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this regulation, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

<u>Commercial and Industrial Facility:</u> A public or private establishment where the principal use is the supply, sale, and/or manufacture of services, products, or information, including but not limited to: manufacturing, processing, or other industrial operations; service or retail establishments; printing or publishing establishments; research and development facilities; small or large quantity generators of hazardous waste; laboratories; hospitals.

Department: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

<u>Discharge</u>: The accidental or intentional disposal, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, incineration, or placing of toxic or hazardous material or waste upon or into any land or water so that such hazardous waste or any constituent thereof may enter the land or waters of the Commonwealth. Discharge includes, without limitation, leakage of such materials from failed or discarded containers or storage systems and disposal of such materials into any on-site leaching structure or sewage disposal system.

Floor Drain: An intended drainage point on a floor constructed to be otherwise impervious which serves as the point of entry into any subsurface drainage, treatment, disposal, containment, or other plumbing system.

<u>Leaching Structure</u>: Any subsurface structure through which a fluid that is introduced will pass and enter the environment, including, but not limited to, dry wells, leaching catch basins, cesspools, leach fields, and oil/water separators that are not watertight.

<u>Oil/Water Separator:</u> A device designed and installed so as to separate and retain petroleum based oil or grease, flammable wastes as well as sand and particles from normal wastes while permitting normal sewage or liquid wastes to discharge into the drainage system by gravity. Other common names for such systems include MDC traps, gasoline and sand traps, grit and oil separators, grease traps, and interceptors.

<u>Toxic or Hazardous Material:</u> Any substance or mixture of physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics posing a significant, actual, or potential hazard to water supplies or other hazards to human health if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or water of the Town of Norwell. Toxic or hazardous materials include, without limitation, synthetic organic chemicals, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious wastes, acids and alkalis, and all substances defined as Toxic or Hazardous under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 21C and 21E or Massachusetts Hazardous Waste regulations (310 CMR 30.000), and also include such products as solvents, thinners, and pesticides in quantities greater than normal household use.

<u>Use of Toxic or Hazardous Material:</u> The handling, generation, treatment, storage, or management of toxic or hazardous materials.

4. Prohibitions

With the exception of discharges that have received (or have applied and will receive) a Department issued permit prior to the effective date of this regulation, no floor drain(s) shall be allowed to discharge, with or without pretreatment (such as an oil/water separator), to the ground, a leaching structure, or septic system in any industrial or commercial facility if such floor drain is located in either:

- A. an industrial or commercial process area,
- B. petroleum, toxic, or hazardous materials and/or waste storage area, or
- C. a leased facility without either A or B of this section, but in which the potential for a change of use of the property to use which does have either 4A or 4B is, in the opinion of the Board of Health or its agent, sufficient to warrant the elimination of the ground discharge at the present.

5. Requirements For Existing Facilities

- A. The owner of a facility in operation prior to the effective date of this regulation with a prohibited (as defined under Section IV) floor drain system shall:
 - 1. disconnect and plug all applicable inlets to and outlets from (where possible) applicable leaching structures, oil/water separators, and/or septic systems;
 - 2. remove all existing sludge in oil/water separators, septic systems, and where accessible, leaching structures. Any sludge determined to be a hazardous waste shall be disposed of in accordance with state hazardous waste regulations (310 CMR 30.000). Remedial activity involving any excavation and/or soil or groundwater sampling must be performed in accordance with appropriate Department policies;
 - 3. alter the floor drain system so that the floor drain shall be either:
 - a. connected to a holding tank that meets all applicable requirements of Department policies and regulations, with hauling records submitted to the Norwell Board of Health at the time of hauling:
 - b. connected to a municipal sanitary sewer line, if available, with all applicable Department and local permits; or
 - c. permanently sealed. Any facility sealing a drain shall be required to submit for approval to the Board of Health a hazardous waste management plan detailing the means of collecting, storing, and disposing any hazardous waste generated by the facility, including any spill or other discharge of hazardous materials or wastes.
- **B.** Any oil/water separator remaining in use shall be monitored weekly, cleaned not less than every 90 days, and restored to proper conditions after cleaning so as to ensure proper functioning. Records of the hauling of the removed contents of the separator shall be submitted to the Board of Health at the time of hauling.
- C. Compliance with all provisions of this regulation must be accomplished in a manner consistent with Massachusetts Plumbing, Building, and Fire code requirements.
- **D.** Upon complying with one of the options listed under Section V.A.3., the owner/operator of the facility shall notify the Department of the closure of said system by filing the Department's UIC Notification Form, and sending a copy to the Norwell Board of Health.

6. Effective Dates For All Facilities

The effective date of this regulation for all facilities is October 1, 1999.

A. Existing Facilities:

- 1. Owners/Operators of a facility affected by this regulation shall comply with all of its provisions within 180 days of the effective date of May 1, 2000;
- 2. All applicable discharges to the leaching structures and septic systems shall be discontinued by January 1, 2000 through temporary isolation or sealing of the floor drain.

B. New Facilities:

- 1. As of the effective date of the regulation, all new construction and/or applicable change of use within the Town of Norwell shall comply with the provisions of this regulation.
- 2. Certification of conformance with the provisions of this regulation by the Board of Health shall be required prior to issuance of construction and occupancy permits.

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NORWELL BOARD OF HEALTH	H /
JAMA Sual	_DATE: 10/25/23 Peter M. Dillon, Chairman
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	DATE: 10/19/23 Natalya S. Davis

The regulations regarding the sanitary disposal of sewage were originally adopted on August 13, 1973, the private well regulations were originally adopted on June 3, 1996, and the floor drain regulations were originally adopted on October 1, 1999. This set of regulations includes all revisions and amendments to date.

R. Benjamin Margro, Health Agent