

February 18, 1998

Board of Health Septic System Inspection Policy Changes.

The Granby Board of Health has voted to modify the procedures under which on-site septic disposal systems are inspected pursuant to 310 CMR 15.302.

The motivation for such actions is in response to the Board's observation of the following practices among a number of local septic system inspectors.

1. Incomplete, incorrect or unclear documentation of site conditions and system components.
2. The practice of requiring the septic system inspector to estimate the high seasonal ground-water elevation without the proper comprehensive training.
3. The frequent use of "needs further evaluation by Board of Health" as a final determination will no longer be accepted without an accompanying report written by a Professional Engineer or Sanitarian.
4. Historically large variations in high-seasonal ground water elevations within Town boundaries.
5. Presence of soil conditions/colors within the Town which makes identification of soil mottling difficult if not impossible.

The Board has voted that the following changes be made to affect the procedure under which septic system inspections be conducted in the Town of Granby.

1. That a Board member/agent be present to *witness* the existence, condition or state of all key septic system components.
2. That the system inspector retain the services of a MA certified soil evaluator to assist in estimating the high seasonal groundwater elevation unless such data is available pursuant to the DEP soil evaluation regulatory change of 1995.
3. That a Board member/agent may be present to view inspection activities.

Commentary: Due to the frequent "needs further evaluation by Board" determination, a homeowner's time and money may be most efficiently managed by requiring a Board member/agent to view site conditions at the time of the initial inspection. Consequently, the outcome of the

inspection can be promptly discussed in the field and additional site excavation activities may be precluded in the vast majority of cases.

The Board hopes DEP will join us in endorsing these policy modifications. We believe both the homeowner and the system inspector will ultimately benefit from these changes.

Very Truly Yours,

William A. Shaheen
Lee A. Lalonde
Richard G. Bombardier