COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Health Managers
District Health Directors
Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluators
VPI Contract Soil Scientists

From: Robert W. Hicks, Director
Office of Environmental Health Services

Date: June 13, 2007

Subject: GMP #126.A

The attached guidance document contains the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) revised policy for implementing the *Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluator (AOSE) Regulations* and related statutes. The AOSE program has significantly matured since the interim program began in 1999. From this maturation, the AOSE advisory committee recommended that AOSE work now include a cover page, which the State Health Commissioner approved. The attached policy is intended to establish uniformity and consistency across the Commonwealth in VDH's administration of the AOSE program. All health districts are expected to implement the AOSE program in accordance with the policy, the *AOSE Regulations*, the *Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations*, the *Private Well Regulations*, and the *Code of Virginia*.

Please keep in mind that everyone must work together to implement the policy. Health department staff should give AOSEs sufficient time to understand and comply with the policy revisions and not immediately return work because it does not have a cover page. AOSEs should start adding the appropriate cover page to their work as quickly as possible.

We have tried to be as thorough as possible in developing the policy changes, but we recognize that there might be areas that have been overlooked, or areas where the guidance contained in the policy is insufficient or incomplete. Please contact the Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services with any questions you might have about the policy. I also invite you to attend AOSE advisory meetings to assure that our policy addresses the current needs in the program and as VDH and the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) begin to transition the AOSE program

as required by HB3134 and SB1270 of the 2007 Virginia General Assembly session. As always, if future law or regulation conflicts with the policy, then the regulations or *Code* will supercede the policy.