COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health
Richmond, Va. 23219

JAMES B. KENLEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

September 10, 1984

MEMORANDUM:

TO: All Regional Medical Directors
Health Directors (at Headquarters Offices) and
Division of Water Programs

FROM: H. W. Oglesby, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Management for
Community Health Services

ATTENTION: All Holders of the "Manual for Implementation of the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations."

Enclosed with this memorandum is an expanded definition of § 3.13.b "Procedures for obtaining a Construction Permit for a Sewage Disposal System - Type II."

Please require all sanitarians to comply with the attached official agency definition. Please see that all holders of the "Manual for Implementation of the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations" in the local health department in your district or regional office are furnished with a copy of this information and their manuals are revised as indicated. Also, be sure to revise the official office copy.

P.P.I. #6.31, "Mass Drainfields (Subsurface Soil Absorption Systems Designed for Average Daily Sewage Flows in Excess of 2000 Gallons)" expires upon receipt of this notice.

HWO:fh
enclosure

cc: Regional Sanitarians
District Sanitarian Supervisors

EXPANDED DEFINITION OF TYPE II, SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, § 3.13.b

Reference 3.13.b Type II:

Type II Sewage Disposal Systems which meet the following definition, are considered mass drainfields:

> A sewage disposal system which will discharge effluent to a single absorption area or multiple absorption areas with or without combined flows such that:
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> 1) The loading rate exceeds 1,200 gallons per day for any acre, or
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> 2) The disposal system contains more than 2,000 linear feet of percolation piping.

Detached single family residences with individual sewage disposal systems are exempt from this definition.

It is the policy of the Department to discourage the use of mass drainfields. When they are proposed, it is recommended that the potential for saturated soil conditions below the disposal area (water mounding), the expected nitrate loadings to the water table and the operational reliability of the system be addressed by the applicant(s).

The rationale for utilizing a 1200 gpd/ac loading rate is based upon limiting nitrate concentrations to below 10 mg/l in groundwaters, EPA's primary maximum contaminant level allowed in drinking water. The rationale for limiting system size to 2000 linear feet is based upon dividing the 1200 gpd loading rate by the volume of a four inch percolation line (.6 gal per linear foot).