

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

June 9, 1995

**SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
GENERAL GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #3
GUIDELINES REGARDING POPULATION DENSITY EQUIVALENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS**

The following will apply to the approval of sewage disposal systems for pre-existing food establishments, which are referred to this Office for review.

1. All establishments which had previously been issued an approval by the Department for a specific number of seats, occupancy or design flow will be considered under the Article 6 Exemption for previously approved construction projects, 760-609 B.2. These "other construction projects" would be exempt from restrictions of sewage discharge, expressed as population density equivalents. In effect, the eating establishment would be permitted to reopen or operate under the occupancy parameters previously approved by the Department, provided that the sewage disposal system and water supply are adequate and conform with the current construction standards.
2. For the purposes of this memorandum, previous approval will include situations where the Department has specifically issued an approval either to operate or construct an establishment based upon an established occupancy or seating. The exemption from population density equivalents will only apply to existing buildings and not to vacant parcels. A SPDES Permit shall not constitute a previous approval by the Department.
3. The sewage disposal system that serves the establishment will be evaluated and certified as to its hydraulic adequacy. This should include confirmation of adequate size, components, and operation of the sewage disposal system by a licensed design professional. If the system is found to be inadequate, then steps should be taken to bring the system into conformance with the current construction standards.

Issued by: Stephen A. Costa, P.E., Chief
Office of Wastewater Management

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