

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
GENERAL GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #11
GUIDELINES FOR THE APPROVAL OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
DAMAGED OR DESTROYED DUE TO COASTAL STORMS**

AUTHORITY

The Suffolk County Sanitary Code sets forth requirements for approval of water sewage disposal systems. The statutory authority for these guidelines can be found in Article 5 Section 760-502, Article 6 Section 760-603, and Article 7 Section 760-705A. Detailed specifications can be found in Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction - Sewage Disposal Systems for Single Family Residences.

PURPOSE

The Standards for Construction of Sewage Disposal Systems for Single Family Residences (Standards) demands that sanitary systems not be installed in any area subject to imminent erosion, which cannot be controlled so as to protect the sewage disposal system. This document defines the criteria used by department staff to evaluate applications and issue permits to rebuild sewage disposal systems destroyed by coastal storms.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

It is hereby determined that the sewage disposal system is protected and a permit to construct shall be granted provided **all** of the following conditions are complied with:

1. The separation distance between the mean high tide and the proposed sanitary system shall comply with standards. A survey shall be submitted that reflects conditions within 60 days of the application.
2. Final elevation of the property at the proposed sanitary system location shall be a minimum of 10 feet above mean sea level.

General Guidance Memorandum #11, Page 1 of 2

3. Documentation shall be provided which substantiates that a protective dune exists and a continuing effective dune reconstruction/replenishment program to control erosion is available and effective for the protection of the sanitary disposal system (as described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point Long Island New York; Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Reach 1 – Interim Plan for Storm Damage Protection**). This requirement can be demonstrated by possession of a NYSDEC permit with provision for a dune replenishment requirement in accordance with the above document.
4. The proposed sanitary system shall be located as far landward as possible.
5. The sanitary system must be able to be constructed in compliance with all Standards.
6. The applicant shall have NYSDEC project approvals and, if necessary, a SEQRA determination.
7. A covenant shall be required which alerts future owners that the property is subject to potential erosion; and if the sanitary system is destroyed or made inoperable or substandard, then the dwelling may not be inhabited until an acceptable sanitary system replacement is installed in accordance with sanitary code requirements. The covenant language shall be acceptable to the County Attorney.

If the foregoing conditions are met, no Board of Review will be necessary, and the project can be approved via normal application process.

Construction approval is valid for three (3) years as long as all construction standards are met. If erosion occurs that results in non-compliance with design standards, the department's approval will be suspended. (This condition should be noted on plan approval.) Further, if there is evidence that a proposed sanitary system would be destroyed in a short time period due to a high rate of ongoing beach erosion, the project does not qualify for approval via this guideline.

Issued by: James Pim, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer
Division of Environmental Quality