



Quarter 1: 2019

Member Newsletter

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2019 Legislative Updates

The following are summaries and statuses of current pieces of legislation relating to the on-lot septic industry in Maryland.

HB 0562 – Montgomery County – Sale of Residential Real Property – Septic Systems Outreach

Toolkit MC 16-19

This requires the seller of residential property served by a septic system in Montgomery County, on or before the execution of a contract for the sale of the property, to deliver certain “Septic Systems Outreach Toolkit” materials to each purchaser. The intent is to promote homeowner education and awareness regarding septic system operation and maintenance.

The bill was first introduced February 4, 2019 and a hearing was held on February 26th. Current status
In the House – Favorable with amendments

HB0190 – Environment – Failing On-Site Sewage Disposal System – Definition

The bill seeks to define the term “failing on-site sewage disposal system” for certain provisions of law to mean the condition of an on-site sewage disposal system or a component of an on-site sewage disposal system that threatens or negatively impacts public health due to certain conditions. This legislation also requires each county to adopt by local law or ordinance the definition of “failing on-site sewage disposal system” as stated in the bill.

This Bill passed the House on March 8, 2019.

SB0353 – On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Construction and Inspection Licenses

This bill prohibits a person from engaging in the business of construction or installing an on-site sewage disposal system unless the person holds a septic construction license issued by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); prohibits a person from engaging in the business of inspection an on-site sewage disposal system unless the person holds a septic inspection license issued by MDE; requiring MDE to establish by regulation certain eligibility criteria and training requirements: etc.

Current status – In the Senate, received unfavorable report by the Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee

HB0539 – Environment – Reuse of Water Diverted from Septic Systems

This bill authorizes a property owner to use “reusable diverted water” on the site on which it originates for beneficial purposes, including gardening, composting, lawn watering, irrigation and toilet and urinal flushing, in accordance with certain requirements. This bill defines the term “reusable diverted water” to mean water that is generated by backwashing an on-site drinking water treatment system or an ice maker and allowing it to be collected for reuse instead of being discharged to an On-site sewage disposal system (as is currently required by Maryland Department of Environment regulations).

This bill was first introduced on February 4, 2019 and a hearing was held on February 27th. Current status – In the House – Favorable with amendments

SB0851 – Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses, Mandatory Appropriation, and County Authority to Incur Indebtedness

This bill expands the uses of a certain account in the Bay Restoration Fund to include making certain no or low-cost loans for the repair or replacement of certain failing on-site sewage disposal systems. It limits this specific loan to a homeowner who resides in a jurisdiction that has developed and implemented a specific “septic stewardship plan” for fiscal year 2021. It requires the Governor to appropriate \$10,000,000 in the annual State operating or capital budget to the Bay Restoration Fund for this purpose.

This bill was first introduced on February 4, 2019 and a hearing date was held on February 27th. Current status – In the Senate

HB0840 – Environment – On-Site Wastewater Services – Regulation

This bill establishes the State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals in the Maryland Department of Environment; specifying the purpose and composition of the Board; specifying the term of a Board member and requiring the Governor to appoint Board members with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland. It also requires the Board to adopt certain regulations; requiring a county to enforce certain standards relating to certain design, installation and maintenance of on-site wastewater systems; etc.

This bill was first introduced on February 8, 2019 and a hearing was held on February 22nd. Current status, In the House

Upcoming Training and Education Opportunities - 2019

- **March 20 (snow date March 27): MOWPA O&M Course** - <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/operations-and-maintenance-o-m-service-provider-certification-program>
- **March 26: MDE At-Grade Bed Installer Course** - <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/at-grade-announcement-32619.pdf>
- **April 9: MDE Sand Mound Installer Course** - <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/sand-mound-announcement-40919.pdf>
- **April 17: MDE Sand Mound Installer Renewal Course** - <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/sand-mound-announcement-40919.pdf>
- **May 15: MOWPA OSDS Inspection Course** - <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/osds-inspection-practices-procedures>

Training and Demonstration Center Update

The partnership between MOWPA and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Extension for an onsite wastewater demonstration and training site is progressing. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been reviewed and approved by MOPWA Board, and is currently being reviewed by the Dean of the College. University engineers are working on the education center building plans and are reviewing MOWPA's recommendations for the onsite demonstration site and various utility access including wastewater. The new education building, to be located at the College's Central MD Research and Education Center on Folly Quarter Road in Ellicott City, will be approx. 12,000 square feet and include a large classroom, conference rooms, lab space, offices, and a separate equipment storage building. The new education center building will provide multi-purpose teaching facilities for a variety of College and Extension educational programs, and opportunity for MOWPA to conduct training classes and hands-on learning at the demonstration area.

Through a MOWPA survey conducted in November, members identified recommended onsite wastewater display items and technologies. These include: a) conventional systems - Concrete septic tanks, plastic septic tanks, and distribution box; b) dispersal systems – gravel trench, Chambers, EZ Flow tubes, low pressure pipe, drip dispersal, various pump float configurations and pumping systems, serial distribution, shallow pressurized dispersal, and at grade and sand mounds; c) advanced treatment systems – current nine approved BATs and space for future units, electric controllers, peat filters, sand filters; and d) recommended landscaping practices for dispersal systems. The planned onsite demonstration site will be located adjacent to the building. Building completion is anticipated by mid-2020. In the coming year MOWPA will be working with the university and other partners in developing specific plans for the demonstration site. If you have additional suggestions for the demonstration site, please contact a Board member.

MOWPA seeks your feedback on educational needs: MOWPA is conducting an education needs assessment to guide us in developing training classes and other educational program to help you or your employees. We welcome your feedback. Please go to the following link and reply by March 15: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHj9lqN4s8cTYZ7

Announcement: OSDS Design Guidelines Available for Sale

The Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA) is pleased to announce the completion of a new document entitled **Design Guidelines for Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems in Maryland** (First Edition, March 2019). It was developed by MOWPA to help educate Environmental Health Specialists, engineers, soil scientists, and other related professionals on how to properly design pressurized soil absorption systems in Maryland. The guide book is primarily focused on the design of:

- Sand mounds;
- At-grade mounds;
- Low pressure distribution; and
- Drip dispersal.

It also includes chapters on conventional system design, as well as an overview of site evaluation, treatment technologies, and hydraulics. Real-world design examples are used to provide the reader with a step-by-step instruction on how each system was designed. In addition, the appendices include MDE guidance memoranda, friction loss tables, and other supporting documentation that are helpful in understanding non-conventional OSDS in Maryland.

Co-authored and edited by Kevin Koepenick, L.E.H.S., the document was peer reviewed by experienced regulators, designers, and installers from across the state. It is a must-have document for anyone involved in the review, design, and installation of OSDS in Maryland.

Cost: \$100 for MOWPA regular members and associate members; \$195 for non-members

To Purchase: Documents can be purchased online or through the mail. Please see the Order Form on the next page for more details.

The Education Committee is currently seeking industry professionals to serve as trainers and educators at upcoming MOPWA courses. Those with experience and backgrounds in all aspects of the industry are needed to provide quality education. Interested in training? Please contact Andy Lazur, Education Committee Chair, at lazu@umd.edu.

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER OR HAVE IDEAS FOR TOPICS? PLEASE CONTACT ANDY LAZUR AND KYLE DIEROLF AT LAZUR@UMD.EDU AND DIEK@PREMIERTECH.COM.

ALL IDEAS ARE WELCOME IN ORDER TO KEEP FELLOW MOWPA MEMBERS UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST IN THE INDUSTRY!



OSDS Design Guidelines Order Form

Are you a current MOWPA Member? ___ Yes ___ No

A) If "No", you must include membership payment for OSDS Design Guide Book:

MOWPA Membership \$ 95.00 _____
MOWPA Associates Membership* \$25.00 _____

**Associate members cannot be the first or only member of their company or organization. It's recommended that the owner or manager of their respective company or organization be the main MOWPA Member at \$95.*

B) **MOWPA OSDS Design Guide Book: \$100.00** _____

Company/Organization _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Amount Included w/order form _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION (MOWPA EIN # 20-2130265)

- Mail completed registration form and payment in full to MOWPA, P. O. Box 2570 • Ellicott City, MD 21041-2570
- Online – <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/design-manual-online-purchase>

Inquiries:

Please contact Rachel at info@mowpa.org or at (443) -570-2029 if you have any questions.