Environmental Engineering Program (EEP)

Introduction

The program consists of 5 permanent staff, 2 Environmental Engineers, 2 Environmental Analyst, and a Supervising Environmental Engineer. The program regulates the design, siting, construction and operation of subsurface sewage disposal systems (a.k.a., septic systems), crematoriums, mausoleums, private burial grounds, public pools, family campgrounds and the disposing of water treatment wastewater.

EEP Unit Responsibilities

Subsurface sewage disposal systems account for 50% of programmatic duties: Subsurface sewage disposal systems serve 40% of the population. Regulatory responsibilities include small and large subsurface sewage disposal (SSDS) system plan reviews, and exception issuance for central sewage systems, off-site sewage systems, sewage holding tanks and sewage system siting variances near water supply wells. Regulatory training requirements include training courses related to the Public Health Code (PHC) Sections 19-13-B100a, B103 and B104. This includes approval of local health agents to investigate, inspect and approve plans for SSDSs. The Department of Public Health (DPH) licenses septic system installers and cleaners, and the EEP handles complaint investigations of these license holders. The EEP coordinates with the Legal Office on enforcement actions against licensed and unlicensed individuals in the sewage professions. Technical assistance is also routinely provided by the program to local health officials which also may include site visits.

Crematoriums, Mausoleums and Private Burial Grounds account for 10% of the programmatic duties: Statutes require DPH to approve plans and specifications for new crematories, public mausoleums / columbariums, and all private burial grounds. The EEP handles the approvals and site inspections for these structures and private burial grounds. Introduction of alkaline hydrolysis and popularity of cremation has increased EEP workload in this area.

Water Treatment Wastewater accounts for 2.5% of programmatic duties: The Commissioners of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the DPH entered into a delegation agreement in July 2017 that provides the authority for Directors of Health to approve and permit discharges of water treatment wastewater (WTW) on properties governed by PHC Sections 19-13-B103a through f. The agreement authorizes Directors of Health to approved WTW disposal systems which include: (1) WTW dispersal systems, (2) SSDSs, and (3) holding tanks. The EEP and local health officials regulate the on-site disposal of water treatment wastewater.

Public Pools account for 35% of programmatic duties: PHC Section 19-13-B33b covers construction/renovation of all public pools and operating sanitary/safety requirements for existing public pools. Review times for pool plans have been increasing due to incomplete submittals and coordination difficulties associated with dealing with multiple contractors, engineers and architects.

Family Campgrounds Account for 2.5% of programmatic duties: PHC Section 19a-2a-29 on Family Campgrounds provides minimum design and construction requirements to ensure camper's health & safety.