

ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD



June 13, 2007

Tom Nelson Director, Planning and Development Department 4700 Bragaw Street Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Mr. Nelson:

RE: Title 21 Rewrite: multi-family dwelling units

At the June 13, 2007 On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved a motion to address concerns regarding the proposed Title 21 Rewrite.

The current authority of the Municipal wastewater code (AMC15.65) is limited to single family dwellings. However, we have observed a weakness between Municipal Code and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (A-DEC) regulations for on-site waste water treatment for multi-family dwellings and duplexes (i.e. A-DEC considers multi-family to be tri-plexes or larger). Specifically, the A-DEC can choose to do plan reviews, or not, on multi-family dwelling that are not part of a subdivision including but not limited to: planned unit developments (PUDs), site condominiums, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and duplexes. When this occurs, the Municipal Development Services Department has no legal authority to regulate the design, construction and operation of the wastewater systems for the proposed multi-family dwellings. Our concern is that the public health may not be adequately protected with these higher density developments.

We request that this "loophole" be addressed in the rewrite of Title 21. Please address any comments to Mr. Dan Roth, who provides staff support for the Board on behalf of the Municipal Development Services

Department. He can be reached at 907-343-7907.

Joel Neimeyer, P.E.

Board Chair

Scott Hattenberg, P.E.

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Linda Kovac, EIT

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Cc: Dan Coffey, Assembly Chairman

Sheila Selkregg, Assembly Member

Debbie Ossiander, Assembly Member

Ron Thompson, P.E., Director, Development Services Department

Bill Reith, A-DEC