



Coastal Zone Management Program - Sewage Treatment Policies Checklist

Name of Project:

5.3 COASTAL USES

5.3.10 Sewage Treatment

Sewage Treatment Policy 1 – Protection of State Waters for Designated Uses. The quality of state waters shall be protected, maintained, and improved for public supplies, propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life, and domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other legitimate beneficial uses. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. §§ 4-402, 9-302(b), 9-323(a).

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Protecting State Waters for Designated Uses.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 2 – Waste Must Be Treated Prior To Discharge to Protect Designated Uses. No waste shall be discharged into any waters of the State without first receiving necessary treatment or other corrective action to protect the legitimate beneficial uses of the State's waters. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. §§ 9-302(b), -323(a).

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Waste to Be Treated Prior to Discharge to Protect Designated Uses.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 3 – Wastes May Not Be Disposed of in a Manner that Likely Creates a Nuisance or Causes Ground or Water Contamination. Sewage or sewage effluent, treated or non-treated, or industrial wastes may not be disposed of in any manner that is likely to create a nuisance or cause contamination of a potable water supply system, the waters of the State, or the ground surface. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.04.02.02.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Prohibiting Unauthorized Waste Discharge into State Waters.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 4 – Waste May Not Be Discharged Into the Patuxent & Severn Rivers & Their Tributaries. A person may not discharge raw sewage or any other waste into the Patuxent River, the Severn River, or any of their tributaries. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 4-307.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Prohibiting Waste Discharge into the Patuxent & Severn Rivers & Their Tributaries.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 5 – Sewage Sludge May Not Be Discharged Into the Chesapeake Bay, or the Bay’s Tidewater Tributaries Within 5 Miles of Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island Chain. A person may not dump, deposit, scatter, or release sewage sludge by any means, including discharge from a sewer or pipe, into or onto any portion of the water or bottomland of the Chesapeake Bay or of the tidewater portions of any of the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries within 5 miles of the Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island chain in Baltimore County. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 5-1102(e).

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Prohibiting Sewage Sludge Discharge into the Chesapeake Bay, or the Bay’s Tidewater Tributaries within 5 Miles of the Hart-Miller Pleasure Island Chain.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 6 – A Discharge Permit is Required Prior to Constructing, Altering or Operating a Sewage Treatment Facility. Before constructing, installing, modifying, extending, altering, or operating a sewage treatment facility that could cause or increase the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the State, the proponent must hold a discharge permit issued by the Department of the Environment or provide an equivalent level of water quality protection. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 9-323(a).

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring a Discharge Permit Prior to Constructing, Altering or Operating a Sewage Treatment Facility.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 7 – Water Quality Protection from On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems. Before attempting to construct or alter an on-site sewage disposal system or cause it to receive any increase in flow or change in the character of wastewater, the proponent must provide an equivalent level of water quality protection to that of a permit from the Department of the Environment. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.04.02.03.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring a Permit Prior to Constructing or Altering an On-Site Sewage Disposal System.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 8 – New Sewage Treatment Plants Shall Meet State Effluent Water Quality Standards. New sewage treatment plants shall be constructed so as to meet the State effluent water quality standards, including those for bacteriological values, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature conditions, which may require advanced waste treatment. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 4-303.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring New Sewage Treatment Plants to Meet State Effluent Water Quality Standards.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 9 – At Least Secondary Treatment Is Required for Sewage Treatment Discharge Into Any State Waters. Secondary treatment is required as a minimum for sewage treatment works discharging into any waters of the State. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.08.04.04C.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring At Least Secondary Treatment for Sewage Treatment Discharge into Any State Waters.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 10 – If Secondary Treatment Cannot Achieve Water Quality or Nutrient Control Requirements, Sewage Treatment Facilities Are Subject to Additional Restrictions. If compliance with the established water quality standards or nutrient control requirements cannot be achieved through secondary treatment for all sewage discharges within a specific river segment or water region, the sewage treatment facilities are subject to additional restrictions. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.08.01.02C.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Applying Additional Restrictions to Sewage Treatment Facilities if Secondary Treatment Cannot Achieve Water Quality or Nutrient Control Requirements.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 11 – Advanced Waste Treatment is Required for Facilities Exceeding 1 Million Gallons Per Day Discharging into Water Quality Limited Waters & May Be Needed on Smaller Systems. Advanced waste treatment is required for all sewage treatment works with a design capacity exceeding 1 million gallons per day and discharging into water quality limited waters. Advanced waste treatment may also be required for smaller sewage treatment works where the Department of the Environment determines that this level of treatment is necessary. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.08.04.04C.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Advanced Waste Treatment for Facilities Exceeding a 1 Million Gallons per Day Discharge into Water Quality Limited Waters & When MDE Judges Advanced Treatment is Necessary for Smaller Systems.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 12 – Phosphorus Discharge Limits for Sewage Treatment Plants. An effluent limitation of 2 milligrams/liter total phosphorus is required for all facilities discharging more than: 500,000 gallons per day to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries above the Baltimore Harbor and 10 million gallons per day in the vicinity of Baltimore Harbor to the Bay Bridge. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.08.04.04C.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Limiting Phosphorus Discharge from Sewage Treatment Plants.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 13 – Protection of Shellfish Harvest Areas. If discharging into shellfish harvesting waters, sewage treatment must be sufficient to protect shellfish harvesting, potentially requiring advanced waste treatment, and the treatment plant must have a bypass control system, including a minimum 24-hour emergency holding facility. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.08.04.04C.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Protecting Shellfish Harvest Areas.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 14 – Requirements for Holding Tanks. Holding tanks shall be watertight and sized to hold at least 7 days of effluent. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.04.02.02L.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Septic Holding Tanks.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 15 – Sewage System Compliance with County Plans. Sewerage systems must conform to the county plan or revision or amendment of the county plan. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 9-511.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Sewage Systems to Comply with County Plans.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 16 – Safe Treatment or Disposal of Sewage Sludge. A sewage sludge utilizer that is engaged in treatment, composting, distribution, application on agricultural or marginal land, or marketing of sewage sludge shall ensure the sewage sludge meets applicable pathogen requirements for Class A or B sewage sludge. MDE (D7) COMAR 26.04.06.02, .12, .17, .32, .38, .42, .52.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Safe Treatment or Disposal of Sewage Sludge.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 17- Sewage Sludge Utilization Must Ensure Protection of Public & the Environment. Sewage sludge utilization is prohibited if it cannot be done without causing an undue risk to the environment or public health, safety, or welfare or if the sewage sludge was generated in a state that does not apply sewage sludge to land. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 9-245; COMAR 26.04.06.01, .11, .74.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Sewage Sludge Utilization to Protect the Public & the Environment.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 18 – Sewage Sludge Utilization Permit. Prior to utilizing sewage sludge in Maryland, a person shall obtain a sewage sludge utilization permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment or provide an equivalent level of environmental protection. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 9-231.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring a Sewage Sludge Utilization Permit.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 19 – A Sewage Sludge User May Not Interfere with State or Local Inspections at a Utilization Site. A sewage sludge utilizer may not interfere with any inspection of a sewage sludge utilization site, including prohibiting access to any representative of the Department of the Environment, to a local health official, or to the local health official, or to the local health official’s designee who requests access to perform any activities to determine compliance with the applicable permit, authorization, approvals, and regulations. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir.§ 9-243; COMAR 26.04.06.04.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy restricting a Sewage Sludge User from Interfering with State or Local Inspections.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 20 – Sewage Sludge Composting or Storage Facilities Must Meet Local Zoning Requirements. Sewage sludge composting or storage facilities must meet all zoning and land use requirements of the county in which the facility is to be located. MDE (D7) Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 9-233.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Sewage Sludge Composting or Storage Facilities to Meet Local Zoning Requirements.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:



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Sewage Treatment Policy 21 – Public Engagement in Siting of a Sewage Sludge Storage or Distribution Facility. The public shall be given an opportunity to present its views prior to any final decision being made on the siting of sewage sludge or a sewage sludge storage or distribution facility. MDE (D7) Md. Conde Ann. Envir. §§ 9-234, -234.1, -238(c); COMAR 26.04.06.14.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy requiring Public Engagement in the Siting of a Sewage Sludge or Distribution Facility.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy:

Sewage Treatment Policy 22 – Limits on the Use of On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems.

On-site sewage disposal systems are prohibited:

- If they may pollute well water supplies, water supply reservoirs, shellfish growing waters, bathing beaches, lakes, or tidewater areas, including within 25 feet of drainage ways, flood plain soils, gullies, rock outcroppings, or slopes in excess of 25 percent;
- 50 feet from water well systems in confined aquifers;
- 100 feet from springs, water well systems in unconfined aquifers, water bodies not serving as potable water supplies, sinkholes underlain by karst topography, and a stream bank that is further than 3,000 feet upstream of an intake for a potable water supply; and
- 200 feet from a stream bank that is closer than 3,000 feet upstream of such an intake.

MDE (D7) COMAR 26.04.02.03; COMAR 26.04.02.04.

Select appropriate response:

- Project will be consistent with policy Limiting Use of On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems.
- Not Applicable.

Describe situation and/or actions to make project or activity consistent with the above policy: