

Revised Recommended Improvement Permit Denial Letter (2005)

Date -----

Re: Application for improvement permit for ----- property site ----- Health Department file No. _____

Dear ----- (Owner or Owner’s Agent)

The _____ County Health Department, Environmental Health Division on (date) evaluated the above-referenced property at the site designated on the plat/site plan that accompanied your improvement permit application. According to your application the site is to serve a ----- (describe facility – example: 3 bedroom residence, 10 employee office) with a design wastewater flow of _____ gallons per day. The evaluation was done in accordance with the laws and rules governing wastewater systems in North Carolina General Statute 130A-333 including related statutes and Title 15A, Subchapter 18A, of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Rule. 1900 and related rules.

Based on the criteria set out in Title 15A, Subchapter 18A, of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Rules .1940 through .1948, the evaluation indicated that the site is **UNSUITABLE** for a ground absorption sewage system. Therefore, your request for an improvement permit is **DENIED**. A copy of the site evaluation is enclosed. The site is unsuitable based on the following:

- _____ Unsuitable soil topography and/or landscape position (Rule .1940)
 - _____ Unsuitable soil characteristics (structure or clay mineralogy) (Rule .1941)
 - _____ Unsuitable soil wetness condition (Rule .1942)
 - _____ Unsuitable soil depth (Rule .1943)
 - _____ Presence of restrictive horizon (Rule .1944)
 - _____ Insufficient space for septic system and repair area (Rule .1945)
 - _____ Unsuitable for meeting required setbacks (Rule .1950)
 - _____ Other (Rule .1946) _____
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These severe soil or site limitations could cause premature system failure, leading to the discharge of untreated sewage on the ground surface, into surface waters, directly to ground water or inside your structure.

The site evaluation included consideration of possible site modifications, and modified, innovative or alternative systems. However, the Health Department has determined that none of the above options will overcome the severe conditions on this site. A possible option might be a system designed to dispose of sewage to another area of suitable soil or off-site to additional property.

For the reasons set out above, the property is currently classified **UNSUITABLE**, and no improvement permit shall be issued for this site in accordance with Rule .1948(c).

However, the site classified as **UNSUITABLE** may be classified as **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE** if written documentation is provided that meets the requirements of Rule .1948(d). A copy of this rule is enclosed. You may hire a consultant to assist you if you wish to try to develop a plan under which your site could be reclassified as **PROVISIONALLY SUITABLE**.

You have a right to an informal review of this decision. You may request an informal review by the soil scientist or environmental health supervisor at the local health department. You may also request an informal review by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional soil specialist. A request for informal review must be made in writing to the local health department.

You also have a right to a formal appeal of this decision. To pursue a formal appeal, you must file a petition for a contested case hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, 6714 Mail Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-6714. To get a copy of a petition form, you may write the Office of Administrative Hearings or call the office at (919) 431-3000 or from the OAH web site at <http://www.oah.state.nc.us/hearings/> The petition for a contested case hearing must be filed in accordance with the provision of North Carolina General Statutes 130A-24 and 150B-23 and all other applicable provisions of Chapter 150B. N.C. General Statute 130A-335 (g) provides that your hearing would be held in the county where your property is located.

Please note: If you wish to pursue a formal appeal, you must file the petition form with the Office of Administrative Hearings **WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS LETTER**. The date of this letter is _____. Meeting the 30 day deadline is critical to your right to a formal appeal. Beginning a formal appeal within 30 days will not interfere with any informal review that you might request. Do not wait for the outcome of any informal review if you wish to file a formal appeal.

If you file a petition for a contested case hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, you are required by law (N.C. General Statute 150B-23) to send a copy of your petition to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Send the copy to: Office of General Counsel, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1601. Do **NOT** send the copy of the petition to your local health department. Sending a copy of your petition to the local health department will **NOT** satisfy the legal requirement in N.C. General Statute 150B-23 that you send a copy to the Office of General Counsel, NCDENR.

You may call or write the local health department if you need any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Signature of Authorized Agent - DENR

Encl.: (Enclose copy of site evaluation)
(Copy of Rule .1948)