

BRUNSWICK COUNTY RURAL SEWER PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The county understands the importance of properly designed and functioning onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems. The county also recognizes that a sewer collection system, either gravity sewer or low-pressure sewer, is not available in many areas of the county and this lack of a sewer collection system creates a hardship for many property owners.

The purpose of the **Brunswick County Rural Sewer Program** is to eliminate failing septic tanks and provide sewer service to existing lots of record that would not otherwise have sewer service due to (1) unsuitable land for an onsite septic disposal system (new construction) or (2) the inability to obtain a septic system repair permit from the Brunswick County Health Department (existing dwelling units). If either of these conditions exists, then a connection will be allowed to a county high pressure sewer transmission force main with the use of a high discharge head sewer grinder pump.

The program is not intended to provide sewer service to new subdivisions and new development. A developer is still responsible for providing sewer service to those developments according to all applicable county ordinances and policies.

NOTE

The installation of a sewer grinder pump requires the homeowner to obtain the services of a licensed plumbing contractor and a licensed electrical contractor to make the required plumbing and electrical connections to the grinder pump once installed. These costs are the responsibility of the homeowner and are not included in any fees paid to Brunswick County for a grinder pump installation.

APPLICABILITY

The Rural Sewer Program is intended to serve properties that do not have a sewer collection system available and cannot obtain a county Health Department improvement permit for an onsite septic disposal system. Prior to making application for connection under this program the applicant must first make application to the county Health Department for either a new septic permit or a repair permit for an existing septic system.

Eligible properties are:

- (1) Existing residential homes and commercial establishments that existed on April 3, 2006 (the original approval date of this policy) on roads with a sanitary sewer transmission force main constructed within the road right-of-way or an easement immediately adjacent to the road right-of-way, or
- (2) New single-family homes and new commercial development constructed on lots of record as of April 3, 2006 on roads with a sanitary sewer transmission force main constructed within the road right-of-way or an easement immediately adjacent to the road right-of-way.

While not intended to provide sewer service for new subdivisions of land, the Rural Sewer Program will allow for service to a minor subdivision of an existing parcel into six (6) or fewer residential lots. The conditions for this type of connection are:

- All lots must have frontage along the road or easement with the sewer transmission forcemain,
- A (15) foot wide public utility easement, adjacent and parallel to the road or easement that contains the sewer transmission main, on the (6) or fewer parcels, must be legally deeded and recorded prior to the installation of any sewer infrastructure on the lots,
- A (2) inch diameter sewer main must be designed, permitted, and installed by the developer within the onsite easement and,
- the (2) inch sewer main will only be allowed to connect to the sewer forcemain at one connection point.

Each of the (6) parcels would then be allowed to connect to the (2) inch sewer main for the discharge of sewer flow to the county system via individual grinder pumps for each lot. Contact the county Engineering Department for further information concerning this type of connection.

POLICY

- (1) Property owners must meet the requirements outlined in this program and pay all applicable fees per the current *Brunswick County Water and Wastewater Rate Schedule*.
- (2) The existing or proposed structure must connect to the county water system if available. If water is available and the structure is not connected, the property owner must agree to connect to the county water system and pay all applicable fees before sewer service is initiated. If water service is not available, the property owner shall agree to have a water meter installed on their well to measure the sewer flow discharged to the county sewer system. Where a meter cannot be installed on the well, the Director of Public Utilities may estimate the flow to be generated by the particular use and establish a flat rate for the sewer service charge. The well meter will be installed at the same time as the sewer grinder pump.

PROCEDURE

1. The Board of County Commissioners shall establish the fees and charges associated with the Rural Sewer Program on a regular basis. The fees and charges shall be established by ordinance and published along with the other water and sewer fees and charges.
2. To receive service under this program a sewer collection system cannot be available. The property owner must first make application to the county Health Department for an onsite disposal system. If a Health Department permit is unobtainable, and is documented in writing from the Health Department, then the applicant can apply for sewer service under the Rural Sewer Program and must meet all of the requirements for the program as stated herein.
3. For **residential properties** the Engineering Department shall review the application to make sure that it meets all the requirements of this program and will also evaluate whether a NCDEQ / DWQ permit is required for the installation of the grinder pump to serve the structure. If a permit is required, the applicant is responsible for obtaining the services of a licensed engineer to assist in obtaining the sewer permit. Single family residential homes can be served by a

simplex (single pump) grinder pump but some situations may require the issuance of a NCDEQ / DWQ permit prior to pump installation.

4. Any sub-main installed on private property within an easement to provide for multiple houses to connect under this program will, as previously stated, require a NCDEQ / DWQ permit.
5. If the residential application meets the requirements of the program the property owner will be notified, and the property owner may apply for service and pay all applicable fees and connection charges at the county Utilities Customer Service department. This will require the execution of the *Sewer Service Agreement* and *Water Service Agreement* as applicable.
6. Upon payment of the fees and the execution of the *Sewer Service Agreement*, the Public Utility staff will meet with the property owner to determine the exact location to set the pump station and electrical control panel on the structure. In order to minimize the number of connections to major sewer transmission force mains the county requires a spacing of approximately (1,000) feet between taps. County Engineering will work with Public Utilities to identify the optimum placement of the sewer tap to serve the residential property.
7. Upon receipt of the NCDEQ / DWQ authorization to construct, if applicable, the Public Utility staff will then schedule the work and provide the property owner with an estimated date of installation.
8. The property owner is responsible for hiring a properly licensed electrician and plumber to provide a power source from the house to the proposed location of the sewer pump station control panel and rerouting the house waste line from the septic tank to the grinder pump tank. The cost of providing electricity to the pump station and the monthly electrical charges associated with operation of the station are the responsibility of the property owner.
9. For **commercial properties** the Engineering Department shall review the application to make sure that it meets all the requirements of this program and will also ensure that the NCDEQ / DWQ permit is issued for the installation of the grinder pump station to serve the structure. It is the responsibility of the applicant to retain the services of a licensed engineer to design and permit the commercial pump station with NCDEQ / DWQ. Commercial projects, with the proper approval from NCDEQ/DWQ, may utilize either a simplex or a duplex grinder pump system.
10. Once all permits are obtained the commercial property owner will be provided the total amounts of fees due. County Engineering will calculate these fees based upon the permitted flow in the NCDEQ / DWQ permit and a Fee Sheet will be provided to the applicant. All fees due are payable at the county Utilities Customer Service department – County Engineering does not collect any fees associated with connection to county water and /or sewer.
11. Upon payment of the fees and the execution of the *Sewer Service Agreement*, the Public Utility staff will meet with the property owner to determine the exact location to install the sewer tap. In order to minimize the number of connections to major sewer transmission force mains the County requires a spacing of approximately (1,000) feet between taps. County Engineering will work with Public Utilities to identify the optimum placement of the sewer tap to serve the commercial property.

12. The commercial property owner is responsible for hiring a licensed utility contractor to install the duplex pump station. The duplex station must meet the minimum requirements of the county. The property owner is also responsible for hiring a properly licensed electrician to provide a power source from the building being served to the proposed location of the sewer pump station control panel, a telephone line for the control panel telemetry (if required), and a standby electrical generator (if required), as well as a licensed plumber to connect the building waste line to the grinder pump tank. The cost of providing electricity to the pump station and the monthly electrical charges associated with operation of the station are the responsibility of the property owner.
13. The individual pump station shall be designed in such a manner to hold at least (360) gallons and be able to pump against a head condition of at least (200) feet (minimum 90 psig).
14. Once the individual pump stations are installed, the property owner responsibilities for operation and maintenance shall be the same as the other properties served by individual pump stations including all electrical charges and county monthly pump maintenance costs.
15. The county will install up to (240) feet of sewer service main from the individual grinder pump to the sewer force main in the road or utility easement. The property owner must pay for all sewer service main in excess of (240) feet.
16. Properties connected under this program shall pay the same monthly base rate, pump maintenance fee, and sewer service charges as other customers connected to the county sewer system.
17. Under the Rural Sewer Program Policy of Brunswick County, residential new structure and existing structure owners must pay all application fees, capital recovery fees, transmission capital recovery fees, and grinder pump installation costs associated with connection to the sewer system at the time of application for service.
18. Under the Rural Sewer Program Policy of Brunswick County, commercial new structure existing structure owners must pay all application fees, capital recovery fees, and transmission capital recovery fees associated with connection to the sewer system at the time of application for service.
19. Failure to pay all applicable monthly charges would result in the discontinuance of water and/or sewer service to the property being served.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
RURAL SEWER PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Date of Application: _____ Receipt of Program Guidelines: _____ (sign or initial)

Applicant Name & Address of Property where the Grinder Pump will be installed:

Parcel PID where the Grinder Pump will be installed: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Please check one:

_____ Existing Residential Structure _____ New Residential Structure
_____ Existing Commercial Structure _____ New Commercial Structure

If existing structure:

Connected to county water (if available)? _____ Yes _____ No

Type of use (please check one):

_____ Single Family Home _____ Multi-Family Home _____ Commercial

County Health Department information:

Has an on-site septic permit application been submitted to the Health Department?

_____ Yes _____ No

Note: It is required under the Rural Sewer Program to first apply to the county Health Department for either a new construction septic permit or an existing septic system repair permit and obtain a denial in writing from the Health Department

Application for Connection via the county Rural Sewer Program:

Approved: _____ **Denied:** _____

For information or clarification concerning this program or application please contact:

William L. Pinnix, P.E.
Director of Engineering

Beverly Adams
Engineering Administrator

Brunswick County Engineering Department
910.253.2500