

TOWN OF SCITUATE

BOARD OF HEALTH



600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy.
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066
Telephone (781) 545-8725
Fax (781) 545-8704

To: Licensed Scituate Septic System Installers and Drain Layers
From: Scituate Board of Health
Date: January 11, 2017
Subject: Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Abandonment Policy for a Building Connected to the Municipal Sewer System

Dear Septic System Installer and Drain Layer Permit Holders,

It has come to the Board of Health's attention that septic system abandonment, which has been a longstanding requirement of 310 CMR 15.354 of the State Environmental Code, Title 5 is not being documented when properties are connected to the municipal sewer system and the septic system formerly serving the property is no longer in use. Therefore, enclosed please find the Town of Scituate Septic System Abandonment Policy adopted by the Board of Health and please note that abandonment must be completed by a septic system installer licensed by the Board of Health.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact my office at 781-545-8725.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keefe
Director of Public Health
Scituate Board of Health

cc: Kevin Cafferty, Director of Public Works
Scituate Sewer Division
Patricia Vinchesi, Town Administrator
Board of Selectmen
Board of Health



SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM ABANDONMENT POLICY FOR A BUILDING BEING CONNECTED TO THE MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM

Improperly abandoned septic tanks and cesspools can create both health and safety hazards. If not properly pumped of contents, the untreated wastewater in the tank can lead to exposures to viruses, bacteria and other contaminants or can impact water bodies. The tank may also collapse or cave in, posing a danger of serious injury to both people and animals. Thus, septic systems must be abandoned in accordance with 310 CMR 15.354 of the State Environmental Code, Title 5. This requires a permit to be issued by the Scituate Board of Health prior to the commencement of work and abandonment may only be performed by an installer licensed by the Board of Health.

When a system is abandoned because a building is connected to the municipal sewer system, the applicant must submit the following to the Board of Health for review before the septic system may be abandoned:

1. A completed application form
2. The application fee of \$25.00 (with a check made payable to the Town of Scituate)
3. A copy of the Connection Permit issued by the Scituate Sewer Department

In accordance with 310 CMR 15.354 of the State Environmental Code, Title 5, the following procedure shall be used to abandon a system:

- (a) Within 14 days prior to discontinuance of use of a system, the facility owner shall apply to the Scituate Board of Health to abandon the existing system citing the reason(s) abandonment is necessary, and where connection to municipal or private sanitary sewer has been made, a copy of the sewer connection permit shall be submitted with the application;
- (b) Upon receipt of the Scituate Board of Health's written approval to abandon the system, the septic tank shall be pumped of its entire contents by a licensed septage hauler; and
- (c) The tank shall be excavated and removed from the site, or the bottom of the tank shall be opened or ruptured after being pumped of its content so as to prevent retainage of water and the tank shall be completely filled with clean sand or other suitable material approved in writing by the Board of Health. This must be done by a contractor licensed by the Scituate Board of Health.

A certificate of compliance will be issued following receipt of the following:

1. A receipt for the pumping of the septic tank and pump chamber, if applicable, by a septage hauler (pumper) licensed by the Board of Health
2. As-built drawings for the sewer line installation
3. Written certification by the licensed septic installer, dated and signed, that the abandonment has been completed in accordance with Title 5, including the method by which the tank was abandoned
4. Signature on the certificate of compliance by the installer, who abandoned the system