

ROY COOPER
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December 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Michael Montebello, Supervisor, NPDES Branch Chief

Subject: Session Law 2023-137 – Changes to Wastewater Design Flow Rates in 15A NCAC 02T .0114(b)

The noted guidance applies to existing Local Programs, Fast Track permits issued via the Regional offices, and Alternative Sewer Collection Permits and any other wastewater collection system permit issued by the Central Office.

SUMMARY:

Section 18 of [Session Law 2023-137](#), enacted October 10, 2023, establishes a wastewater design flow rate of 75 gallons per day per bedroom (GPD/BR) for wastewater systems serving two or more dwelling units. Accordingly, wastewater collection system extension permits issued pursuant to [15A NCAC 02T](#), with wastewater systems serving two or more dwelling units shall use a wastewater design flow rate of 75 GPD/BR.

Pursuant to Section 18.1.(e) of SL 2023-137, the 75 GPD/BR rate shall apply for all wastewater collection system extension permits issued on or after November 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 02T .0114(b) AMENDMENT:

Section 18.1.(d) of SL 2023-137 instructs the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to amend [15A NCAC 02T .0114\(b\)](#) to be consistent with G.S. 143-215.1(f3). Until the EMC adopts the required amendment, the proposed 15A NCAC 02T .0114(b) language shall read as:

“In determining the volume of sewage from dwelling units with a wastewater system serving two or more dwelling units, the flow rate shall be 75 gallons per day per bedroom. The minimum volume of sewage from each dwelling unit with a wastewater system serving two or more dwelling units shall be 75 gallons per day and each additional bedroom above one bedroom shall increase the volume by 75 gallons per day. In determining the volume of sewage from dwelling units with a wastewater system serving a single dwelling unit, the flow rate shall be 120 gallons per day per bedroom. The minimum volume of sewage from each dwelling unit with a wastewater system serving a single dwelling unit shall be 240 gallons per day and each additional bedroom above two bedrooms shall increase the volume by 120 gallons per day. Each bedroom or any other room or addition that can function as a bedroom shall be considered a bedroom for design purposes. When the occupancy of a dwelling unit exceeds two persons per bedroom, the volume of sewage shall be determined by the maximum occupancy at a rate of 60 gallons per person per day.”



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APPLICATION & LOCAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE:

- Applications received prior to November 1, 2023, may calculate wastewater flows utilizing 75 GPD/BR for dwelling units that have not yet been connected. Otherwise, they must use [15A NCAC 02T .0114\(b\)](#) or a lower rate shown on any previously approved flow reduction.
- Applications received on or after November 1, 2023, must calculate wastewater flows utilizing 75 GPD/BR for dwelling units that have not yet been connected unless they have an approved flow reduction for a lower rate.
- Previously issued permits for collection systems that have not been connected (not tributary) may submit a revised application and application fee to change the flow to 75 GPD/BR and submit any necessary design documents as required for the change.
- Per G.S. 143-215.1 (f)-(f3) Local Permit Programs for Sewer Extension and Reclaimed Water Utilization, the same requirements (related to the wastewater flows for dwelling units) noted above would apply, however it would be up to the local program to determine how to address requests to modify existing permits.
- The flow rate change also applies to habitable rooms as defined by 15A NCAC 02T .0114(e).