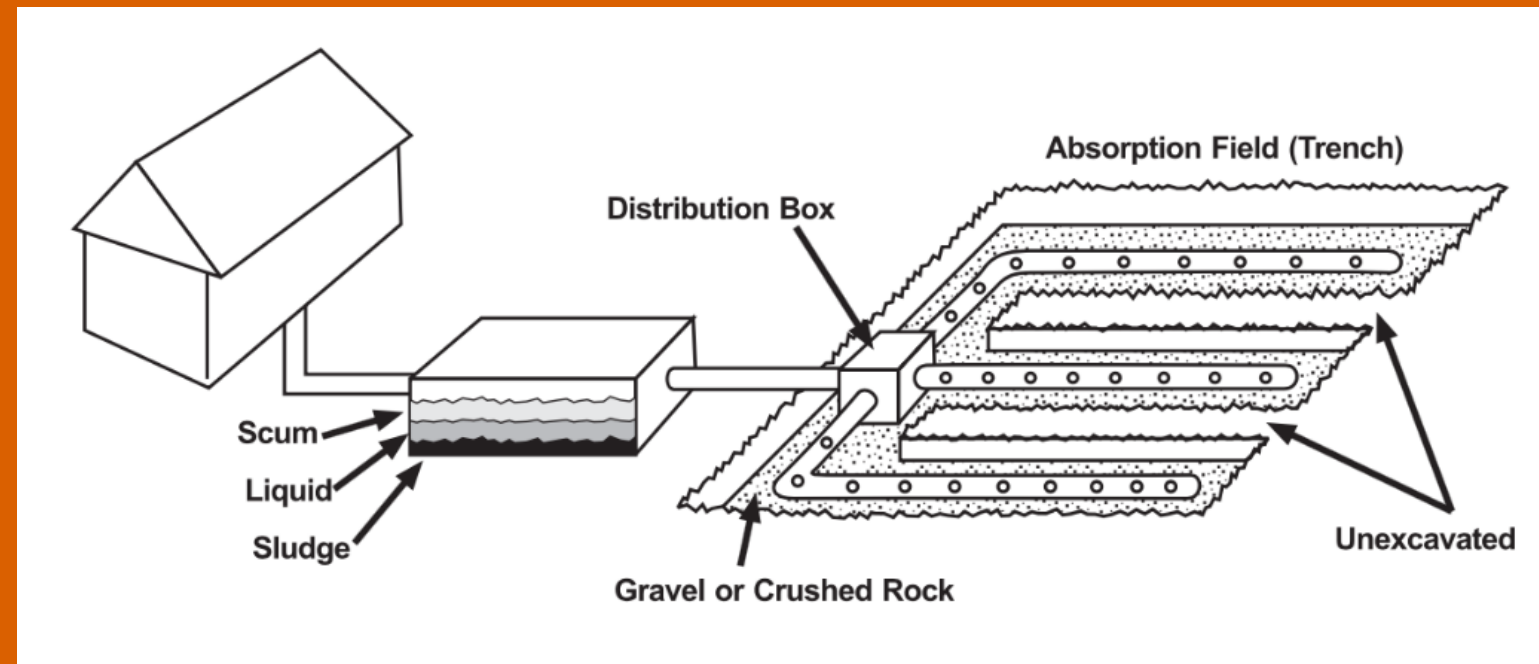


Washington State On-site Sewage System (OSS) Rule Changes

Presentation for
Unincorporated Area
Councils

October 2023



Agenda

1. On-site Sewage Systems
2. State WAC rule changes
 - A. Process
 - B. Proposed changes and local impact

On-site Sewage (Septic) System Background



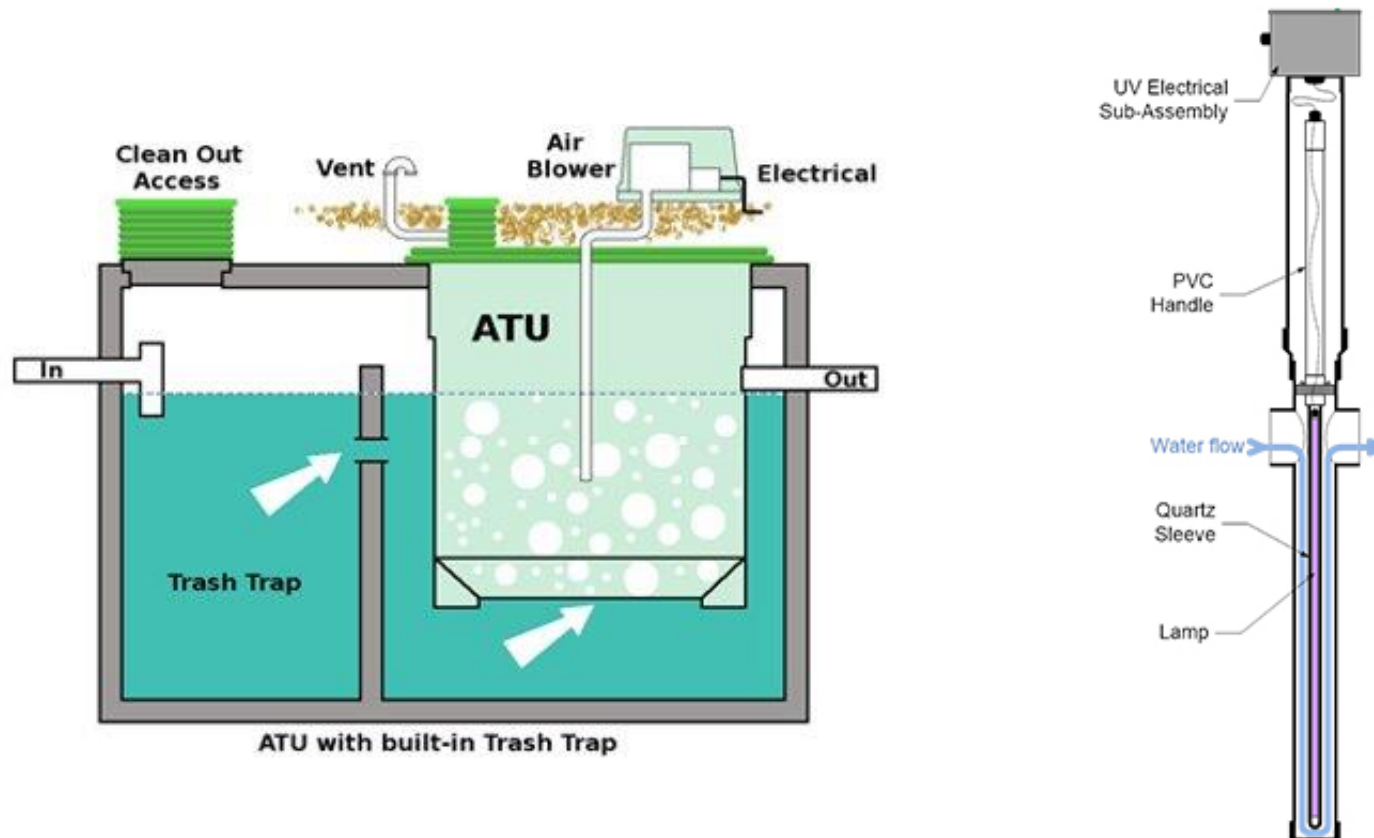


Functioning on-site sewage systems protect people and the environment. Failed on-site sewage systems are a public health hazard.

People can come into contact with sewage when it:

- surfaces in yards.
- flows into streams, lakes, and beaches.
- flows into stormwater catch basins.
- backs up into houses.
- contaminates drinking water wells.

New OSS technologies provide higher wastewater treatment, which allows for development on harder lots and is more complex to maintain.



State Code Revisions



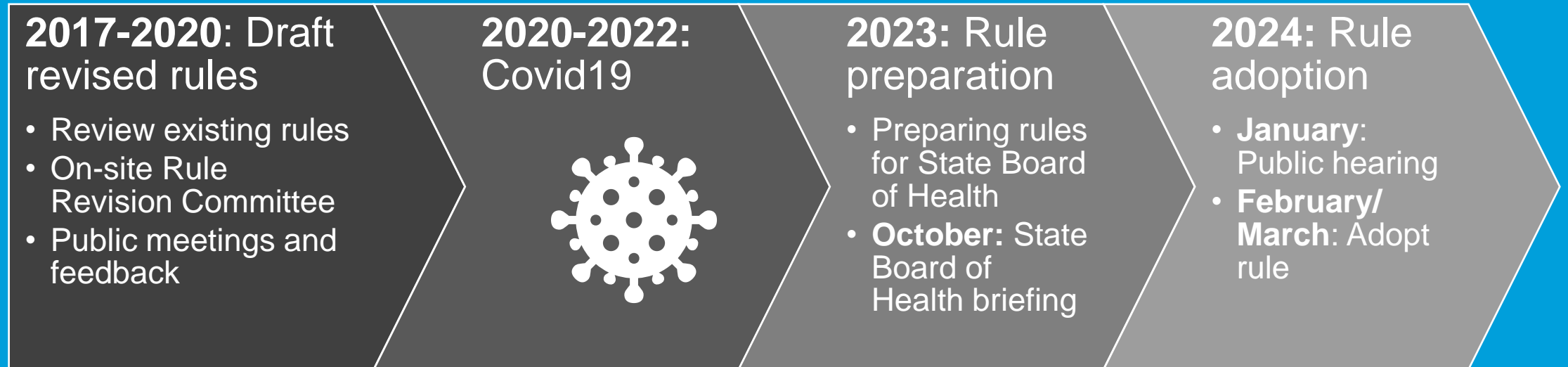
WA Board of Health

- Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-272A
- Sets minimum standards

KC Board of Health

- Title 13, On-site Sewage System Code
- Must be updated to reflect WAC changes within 12 months

State Rule Revision Process



Proposed WAC Changes, part 1

- **Required property transfer inspections**
 - Beginning in 2027, all on-site sewage systems (OSS) must be inspected when the property is sold or the deed is transferred
 - ***No expected changes in King County***
- **Minor repairs and repairs**
 - No permits needed for minor repairs
 - Requires repair of unpermitted sewage discharges
 - Requires least expensive repair that meets requirements
 - ***No expected changes – current policies consistent with these requirements***
- **Remediation**
 - May develop policy allowing OSS remediation to correct certain problems
 - ***No expected change in King County - we have a remediation policy***

Proposed WAC Changes, part 2

- **Increased minimum lot sizes**
 - For new development, minimum lot sizes have been increased by 500-1,000 square feet, depending on soil type.
 - All new lots must have minimum usable land area
 - *King County must adopt this change*
- **New Local Management Plan requirements**
 - *County required to update Local Management Plan*
 - Must identify areas where we need to plan for sea level rise and nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- **New requirement for approval procedures for installers, pumpers, maintainers**
 - *King County will evaluate our approval procedure requirements*

What you can do

- Learn more about septic systems: www.kingcounty.gov/oss
- Listen to the State Board of Health public hearing (January 2024) - learn more at the [WADOH Rule Revision website](#) (link in URL above)
- [Sign up](#) for King County OSS newsletter (link in URL above)
- ***Participate in future conversations next year about King County code changes***

Thank you!

For more information:

www.kingcounty.gov/oss

206-477-8050



Newsletter sign-up form