May 13, 2008

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
GENERAL GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #23
PROCEDURES OF OFFICE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
FOR CALCULATING SEWAGE FLOWS FROM BASEMENTS AND ATTICS
FOR OTHER THAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES

AUTHORITY

The Suffolk County Sanitary Code sets forth requirements for approval of water supply and sewage disposal systems. The statutory authority for these guidelines can be found in Article 5, Section 760-502, Article 6 Section 760-602, 603, and Article 7 Section 760-705A. Detailed specifications can be found in Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction for Sewage Disposal Systems for Other Than Single Family Residences, also known as Commercial Standards.

PURPOSE

The Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction for Sewage Disposal Systems for Other Than Single Family Residences presently does not define a sewage flow rate for basements, cellars and attic uses. This document provides guidance to determine sewage flows for basements, cellars and attics for the purpose of evaluating site density and sanitary system design.

GUIDANCE

For the purpose of this guidance memorandum, Basements, Cellars and Attics can be divided into two main categories: Finished Space or Unfinished Space. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services shall define “Finished Space” as space that is either finished to the point where long term occupancy is possible for use as an office, retail, industrial space or other type of use due to adequate lighting, ventilation, egress, etc., or where restroom facilities (i.e. toilets, sinks, showers, etc) are present. Space that cannot be described in accordance with the aforementioned definition will be categorized as “Unfinished Space”. Floor plans may be required for review to determine the category of the basement, cellar and attic space(s).
1) *Finished Basements, Cellars and Attics*

The floor area of finished basements, cellars and attics shall be considered when calculating the gross floor area to determine density and the capacity of the sewage disposal system(s). If used by the same occupant(s) of the main floor(s) of the building, the flow rate applied to the basement, cellar and attic shall be the same as that considered for the main floor(s). Otherwise, it should be selected in accordance with the proposed use(s) of the basement, cellar and attic space(s).

2) *Unfinished Basements, Cellars and Attics*

The floor area of unfinished basements, cellars and attics that shall not be considered when calculating the gross floor area to determine density and the capacity of the sewage disposal system(s). Furthermore, basements, cellars and attics used solely as mechanical equipment rooms, utility rooms, etc. may also be excluded from density and overall design flow calculations.

**EFFECTIVE**

This document is for guidance purposes only and becomes effective for all applications received after the date of this memorandum. This document should apply in most cases, but it is not a standard and is not meant to substitute for the discretion and common sense of the review staff.

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