

List of and Intent for 2025 update to Northern Nevada Health District Septic regulations (minor editorial changes excluded). Items in green were based on public feedback.

010.015 – Based on public feedback, eliminates 400' to building definition of available sewer; sewer will be considered available at 200' from property line. This is still more stringent than State regulation, an appeal process for repairs was also added in section 020.075.

010.100 – Clarification on engineered fill. This will help for consistency in design and testing when engineered fill is called for.

010.150 – Impervious Strata. Opens up to 120 minutes per inch. Requested by Engineers and used in other regulations. Matches State regulations. NAC 444.763.

010.185 – Clarifies that all components of the septic system fall under definition and are under the authority of the Health District. Includes repair areas.

010.305 – Removes sealed ornamental recirculating yard features from definition of watercourse.

020.015 – Clarifies the purpose of plan review and what will allow for property build out approval. Indicates that repair area must be available.

020.040 – Allows for submittal of electronic plans and other clean up.

020.045 – Allows for submittal of electronic plans and other clean up.

020.050 – Eliminates other types of plan submittals that were not to scale and created issues with poor property records in the past.

020.065 – Clarifies that permits will be honored for the duration of the building permit they are issued in conjunction with.

020.075 – Based on public feedback, provided sectional reference to available sewer definition. Also articulates that financial hardship appeals will be handled at staff level or through an appeal process rather than a variance.

020.090 – Memorializes practice of recording to property issues when necessary for operating conditions or restrictions on septic system.

040.005 – 040.027 – Clean up of historical parceling language that created confusion. Clarifies the intent of current regulations since 2001.

040.035 – Eliminates old section that pertains to septic other than single family dwellings (no longer regulated by NNPH). Renumbers section.

040.040 – Clarifies that repair areas must be reasonable and ready for service at time of designation.

040.050 – Clarifies that setbacks to watercourses are taken from the edge of the bank.

040.055 – Allows for a standard detail for crossing for small drainages and irrigation ditches without a variance. The detail is based on the last several variances that have gone through and been approved.

040.100 – Clean up of easements. Specifies minimum thickness for liners for watercourses. Allows for sleeving of water line for a reduced setback to water lines.

050.015 – Allows for 1/8" slope after tank, which should be sufficient, as solids are no longer present. UPC allows for it.

050.030 – Industry has indicated that snake lengths good for 4" pipes tend to be 50' and should be able to accommodate 100' lengths these days.

060.030 – This was in response to several manufacturing issues where the baffle or pass through was being placed in the highest position, creating potential for grease or sludge to pass through to second chamber. Based on State Health feedback, modified baffle levels to match NAC 444. Based on public feedback, referenced Figure 2.

060.075 – This deals with tanks that have treatment but are smaller gallonage than required. Many advanced treatment allow for different tank sizes based on bedroom count.

060.100 – Clarifies that treatment devices other than tanks do not absolve the owner of meeting code.

070.020 – Removes 4 hour requirement. Staff felt that this is almost impossible to regulate since usage is not controlled.

090.025 – Expands the number of professionals that can conduct percolation tests. This will alleviate some of the challenges at finding someone to conduct percolation tests and may lower costs for homeowners. All the professional types listed are more than competent to conduct these tests.

100.015 – Opens up alternative filter medias such as plastic chips and other new technologies for usage. Will help with quarry overuse. Clarifies that visual inspection may result in rock being rejected. Based on public feedback, removed shredded tires as a media option for standard systems. Concern was based on potential for chemical leaching into groundwater.

100.020 – Adds alternative filter media as allowed in 100.015.

100.025 – Table 2. Reduces rock size minimum to ¾". Matches 444.8361.

100.030 – Allows for engineered fill to go to 120 mpi as impervious definition changed. Request from industry.

100.077 – Based on public feedback, included a section to work towards allowing drip style septic systems. Drip systems are becoming more common and in some situations preferred, but often times are not certified as they are simply a distribution technology rather than a treatment method. Indicates that NNPH will develop a design manual and allow these types of systems once the manual is complete

(as other jurisdictions have done). Allows for those drip systems that are currently certified or part of treatment systems that are certified to be used.

100.080 – Based on public feedback, emphasized that pressurized lines are preferred for sand filters to ensure equal distribution. Does not prohibit gravity distribution.

100.090 – Clarifies that 2' of soil treatment is required before releasing effluent from a sand filter into fractured rock. Some engineers were following the picture of the "T" sand filter and not wanting soil treatment. Allows for engineers to alternatively demonstrate that a soil substrate exists to provide treatment if they can.

100.100 – Clarifies that engineered fill is suitable for raising sand filters off of water levels within 2 feet of the surface.

100.105.1.b – Updated sand filter gradation requirements to be more inline with current literature. Allows for Health Authority to still approve old gradation in some situations. Removes Figure 11 which was related. Based on industry feedback/need for method to deal with single source issue, this addition allows for industry to petition to utilize alternate sand gradations for sand filters based on actual treatment testing data.

100-110- 130 – Opens up alternative technologies that have NSF certification to be approved by Health District and outlines requirements for approvals.

120.030 – Provides some guidance on what Health District will approve for pit privys. On occasion we get asked about them.

120.050 – Provides guidance on abandonment for septic tanks.

120.075 – Allows for sizing of field for two dwellings to be based on total bedroom count provided that the maximum is recorded to the property. Removes section referring to "mother in law" quarters. That designation does not exist in Planning and created situations where the Planning Department and Health were defining things differently. Clarifies that the Planning agency will make the determination and septic codes will conform to that determination.

170.010 – Revises Board to 7 members instead of 5 members and 2 alternates.

170.015 – Removes requirements for certain certifications for Board members, as Health had a hard time achieving them. Does indicate that Health will try to maintain that type of representation on the Board. Cleans up some other minor language.

170.020 and 030 – Removes alternate language from other Board sections.