

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The following business impact statement was prepared pursuant to NRS 237.090 to address the proposed impact of additions, amendments and deletions to the Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation.

1. The following constitutes a description of the manner in which comments were solicited from affected businesses and citizens, a summary of their response and an explanation of the manner in which other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary. *(List all trade association or owners and officers of businesses likely to be affected by the proposed rule that have been consulted).*

NNPH staff engaged in extensive outreach efforts to solicit information and feedback from affected businesses and citizens.

The draft regulations were published on the NNPH website on August 5, 2025, along with a rationale guide for each of the proposed changes. A link was provided for those that wished to provide feedback. At the same time, small stakeholder groups – the Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Advisory Board, select engineers, and select septic installers – were provided with a copy of the regulations directly and asked to provide feedback.

On October 2, 2025, NNPH put out a press release regarding the proposed regulation change and emails were sent out to all contractor email addresses within the Washoe County Community Services database. In addition, emails were sent to engineers and realtors working within Washoe County through their respective Boards. Finally, postcards were mailed to the approximately 18,000 owners of properties served by septic systems. All correspondence provided links to provide feedback and announced the dates of public workshops. On October 13 and 20, staff conducted two public workshops that were attended by 65 and 35 members of the public respectively.

Feedback received was positive in general. Based on the feedback, a few additional minor changes were made. Those were posted on the website in the first week of December along with a guide on the additional changes. None of the additional changes are considered to be controversial.

There were two areas that NNPH received feedback on. Primary feedback was that some property owners did not like the language that clarified the intent to maintain a septic density of one (1) septic system per acre, which has been the policy of NNPH since 2001. Those owners' concerns were easily offset by numerous other property owners who felt that maintaining reduced septic density was in the interest of protecting their own well water quality. Secondly, NNPH received one (1) concern from a contractor who felt that required repair areas to be available at time of construction and recording of agreements to the property where requirements that were too onerous. Neither of those aspects of the regulations are new, the proposed language simply clarifies long standing practices of NNPH which have not generated much negative feedback over the years they have been in place.

Parties interested in obtaining a copy of the regulations can visit the NNPH office or see the posted regulations on the NNPH website. Those interested in submitting comments on the proposed regulations could submit their comments in-person, via email, or by calling the office.

2. The estimated economic effect of the proposed rule on businesses and citizens, including, without limitation, both adverse and beneficial effects, and both direct and indirect effects:

Adverse effects: There are not expected to be any adverse economic effects.

Beneficial effects: Improved clarity on septic regulations, including maximum septic density for development (parceling of land). A lower septic density reduces risk of groundwater contamination within the community, both for municipal water systems and individual well owners. Increased access to new septic technologies that will further improve quality of effluent discharged into the community and provide alternatives to lots that may be difficult to develop. Reduced variance costs for standardized mitigation practices that previously required a variance process to be approved which saves time and money for applicants.

Direct effects: Contractors and septic installers will have a greater range of options to find septic solutions for challenging properties. Reduced variance applications due to incorporation of standardized mitigation practices into regulation.

Indirect effects: No indirect effects are anticipated at this time.

3. The following constitutes a description of the methods the local government considered to reduce the impact of the proposed rule on businesses and citizens and a statement regarding whether any, and if so, which of these methods were used: (Include whether the following was considered: simplifying the proposed rule; establishing different standards of compliance for a business or citizen; and if applicable, modifying a fee or fine set forth in the rule so that business could pay a lower fee or fine).

This regulation update is based upon industry feedback with the goal of reducing impact on businesses and citizens. The regulations simplified and/or clarified sections of the regulations to address concerns regarding development and construction.

4. The governing body estimates the annual cost to the local government for enforcement of the proposed rule is:

There is no anticipated increase in annual cost to the local government for enforcement of the proposed rule.

5. The proposed rule provides for a new fee or increases, and existing fee and the total annual amount expected to be collected is:

There are no proposed new fees or increases with this regulation update.

6. The money generated by the new fee or increase in existing fee will be used by the local government to:

Not applicable. There is no new fee or increase associated with the proposed regulations.

7. The proposed rule includes provisions that duplicate or are more stringent than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity. The following explains when such duplicative or more stringent provisions are necessary:

The proposed changes are not duplicative or more stringent than existing federal, state or local standards.

8. The following constitutes an explanation of the reasons for the conclusions regarding the

impact of the proposed rule on businesses:

There are no changes in the proposed rule which increases costs to businesses or the public. Most of the changes are based on the needs of industry and should actually make a variety of aspects of septic construction easier with a greater range of options. In addition, the remaining changes are essentially all clarifying changes, leading to more clear direction and less confusion.

As indicated, almost all of the comments received from the extensive outreach conducted by NNPH staff were positive. While there was some disagreement over the septic density issue, both sides of the issue were actually represented during the comment period and in fact, some of the public requested a decreased density. The net effect of these regulations changes is expected to be positive, from an industry perspective and also as being protective of the community's groundwater quality.

To the best of my knowledge or belief, the information contained in this statement is prepared properly and is accurate.

Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer

Date