



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Subject: Regulation 61-56, Onsite Wastewater Systems

To all in the builder industry,

Please see the change in ordinance 61-56 to obtain permits for large parcels of 10 or more lots. DHEC will no longer be soil testing for 10 lots or more starting July 1, 2022. You will need a private soil scientist to obtain any subdivisions of 10 or more lots.

"South Carolina Regulation 61-56, Onsite Wastewater Systems, has been revised and will become effective Friday, July 1, 2022. The updated regulation is a result of several years of work and input from interested stakeholders. The revision process consisted of many stakeholder meetings and approval by the Department Board and SC Legislature.

The amended Regulation 61-56 establishes new criteria for obtaining permits to construct septic systems for subdivisions and for sites located above the state fall line where the piedmont meets the coastal plain. Under the updated regulation, the Department will not perform a soil evaluation or prepare a system layout for any subdivision or portion of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots. Soil evaluations for any lots that are part of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots must be conducted by a licensed person meeting the criteria of Section 102.1(2)(b) or (c) of Regulation 61-56.

Proposed system layouts for any lots that are part of a subdivision with ten (10) lots or more must be prepared by a third-party Registered Professional Engineer or Professional Soil Classifier meeting the criteria under Section 102.1(3)(b) or(c) of Regulation 61-56. The Soils Report and proposed system layout must be submitted with the onsite wastewater system permit application for the purpose of the Department review and issuance of a permit to construct.

The updated regulation also states that backhoe pits shall be required for all sites located above the Fall Line that separates the Piedmont area from the Coastal Plain as defined by the South Carolina Geological Survey. Applicants having lots located in this area will need to schedule the site visit and provide backhoe pits on the site for Department personnel to conduct the site evaluation."

[Click here](#) for direct link to Regulation 61-56