



October 24, 2008

RE: New On-Site Sewage System (OSS) operation and maintenance requirements.

Dear Property Owner:

In response to changes in State law, the Whatcom County Board of Health adopted revisions to the Whatcom County On-Site Sewage Regulations (WCC 24.05) which will directly affect property owners with an on-site sewage system. One major change for property owners is the requirement for routine evaluations of their system.

OSS that are not properly operated or maintained may contaminate surface and ground water. This contamination poses a risk to public health due to the shellfish growing areas, and water recreation along the marine shorelines and lakes, and drinking water wells. Because of these risks, the Board of Health adopted a plan for the implementation of this new requirement county wide.

All OSS must now periodically be evaluated by a licensed Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Specialist. We are asking that you contact a licensed O&M Specialist to perform an evaluation of your OSS by **December 31, 2008**. A list of licensed O&M Specialists is enclosed for your convenience. Once the evaluation is completed, the O&M specialist will submit a Report of System Status (ROSS) to the Whatcom County Health Department.

Please see the attached handout for more information regarding the operation and maintenance program. We realize that this new requirement may be a burden for some people. If there are circumstances that prevent you from scheduling an evaluation within the timeframe above, please contact our office and we will work with you to extend the deadline.

If you do not currently have an OSS on your property, you do not need to respond to this letter.

If you have any questions, contact our O&M program staff. We can be reached Monday through Friday at (360) 676-6724, or by email at environmentalhealth@whatcomcounty.us.