

Guidelines for a New Septage Land Application Site (SLAS)

The following information is needed to obtain a Permit for a Septage Land Application Site:

After finding land that you wish to permit, you will need to find someone to do a **Site Evaluation**. You will likely need to contact a licensed soil scientist to do the site evaluation. The NC Department of Agriculture or the local Cooperative Extension Office can also be of assistance. NC field agronomists and a list of certified Soil & Water Conservation technical specialists are another good resource. These individuals may not be qualified to do a site evaluation but they may be able to recommend someone local. Be sure to explain to the individuals that you talk with that the evaluation is for septage land application, not sludge and the report will go to the Division of Waste Management not the Division of Water Quality. The report should also indicate in which stream watershed the site is located. You will also need to find a Technical Specialist to write your **Nutrient Management Plan** and **Soil Erosion & Runoff Control Plan**. A "Technical Specialist" is an individual designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, pursuant to rules adopted by that Commission, to certify animal waste management plans. Usually the local County Cooperative Extension Office has personnel that are qualified to write (at no charge) a nutrient management plan and soil erosion & runoff control plan.

An **Application for a Permit to Operate a Septage Land Application Site** shall be completed and submitted. Please note that if a proposed site is currently agriculture it is exempt from the Endangered Species Law in item 7 on the back of the form. Item 6 on the back of the application requires an explanation that you will treat the septage with enough hydrated lime to raise the pH to 12 and hold it at pH12 for a half hour for domestic septage (and hold for two hours for grease septage) prior to land application.

A notarized **Landowner's Authorization** form is required if anyone else's name is currently on the deed other than the individual applying for the permit. Please ensure all landowners' sign the authorization and that a definite time period with a specific start date is indicated.

The individual that is going to conduct the evaluation will need a copy of the NC Septage Management Rules. State laws and rules can be accessed at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/septage>. An **Aerial Photograph**, scale 1" equals 400' or less must be used as the background for the map produced during the evaluation and be included with the permit submittal. The aerial photograph must extend for a distance of at least 2500 feet in all directions from the site, with site property boundaries accurately depicted. An aerial photograph is usually available from your local tax office or they can instruct you where to obtain one in your area. The aerial should indicate the useable area and the setbacks from any features noted in the rules. A **Vicinity Map** (county road map) showing the site location shall be included with the permit submittal. Please mark the proposed site location on the aerial photo and the vicinity map.

A **Soil Sample** shall be taken from each disposal field at the proposed site. The sample must be tested for all parameters normally run by the NCDA lab and **the regulated heavy metals**. Samples submitted to the NCDA lab should indicate the crops to be grown. Usually the individual that you hire to perform your site evaluation will also take the soil samples. Please include a copy of the soil analysis in your permit submittal.

Before a septage land application site permit can be issued, the permit applicant shall attend a **New Site Operator's Class**. This class is typically held at the Fayetteville Regional Office at 225 Green Street, Suite 714, in Fayetteville. After the permit is issued, there is an annual 3 hour training requirement that shall be satisfied prior to being re-permitted for each coming year. These annual training classes are held at various locations around the state. These classes are offered by NC Pumper Group or NC Septic Tank Association. For information concerning the NC Pumper Group call 252-249-1097 or go to www.ncpumpergroup.org or. For information concerning the NC Septic Tank Association call 336-416-3564 or 336-345-8357 or go to www.ncsta.net.

The permit requirements for a Septage Detention (**storage tank**) or Treatment Facility are similar to the submittal for a land application site permit. An application form, landowners' authorization form (if different than the applicant), aerial photograph and vicinity map are required. Please note that a permitted storage tank is required for the land application of grease septage.

Please be aware that zoning requirements are the responsibility of the permit applicant. Issuance of a permit from this office does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility of obtaining applicable zoning approvals prior to the operation of the site. However, production of a crop in accordance with an approved nutrient management plan on land that is permitted as a septage land application site is a bona fide farm purpose under G.S. 153A-340.

Please note that ORIGINAL signed forms, plans etc are needed to issue a permit. The time frame varies but on average it takes several months to obtain a septage land application site permit. This is due to several reasons including the amount of information that must be submitted, revisions that may be needed and the daily workload that this office manages. Once the review of the permit submittal is close to completion, this office will perform a site inspection to establish setbacks, boundary markers and ensure compliance with septage management rules. An adequate crop stand sufficient for land application is required.

Please be aware that use of a septage land application site or storage tank that is not permitted may result in administrative penalties up to \$15,000 per violation per day in accordance with NC General Statute 130A-22. A pre-operational inspection shall be performed and a permit issued (signed) before septage land application or septage detention shall occur.

For permit forms and other information visit the Division of Waste Management website at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/septage>.