Second Mechanical Remediation Method Guidance

For Certified Professionals

This guidance describes the conditions when we will allow a second application of a mechanical remediation method (e.g. air injection method like Terralift) to reduce clogging of the infiltrative surface of an on-site sewage dispersal component.

Environmental Health Code, Chapter 2, Section 33 (B) allows the one-time application of mechanical methods to reduce clogging of the infiltrative surface of a drainfield.

We allow a second application of a mechanical remediation method when the conditions described below are present.

If a drainfield continues to have operational deficiencies after 2 applications of a mechanical remediation method, then you must implement maintenance measures or replace the on-site sewage system.

Conditions for a second mechanical remediation application

- The first mechanical remediation application was performed more than 5 years ago.
- The soils near the drainfield meet the following conditions:
  - If installed before Nov. 6, 2002: Must have a minimum of 18 inches of vertical separation.
  - If installed after Nov. 6, 2002: Must meet current vertical separation requirements.

Process for requesting a second mechanical remediation application

A certified Operation and Maintenance (O&M) firm, septic designer or engineer must submit a Design - Partial Repair application and fee, including:

- A written justification, including a statement affirming the conditions for a second mechanical remediation application have been met.
- A signed and dated Mechanical Remediation Method Acknowledgement and Agreement form (page 2) from the homeowner.
- The results from a soil test hole near the drainfield.
- A basic site plan showing the area where the mechanical remediation procedure will be applied. Follow the requirements in Chapter 2, Section 28.B, see Remodel Guidelines.
- If a record drawing clearly shows the location, length, and layout of the existing drainfield, field verify depth of infiltrative surface and vertical separation.
- If there is no record drawing available that clearly shows the location, length, and layout of the existing drainfield, an O&M firm needs to locate it. Field verify depth of infiltrative surface and vertical separation.
- Install inspection ports at each lateral end. This can be done after the mechanical remediation application.
I, ________________________________, am the legal owner of parcel __________________________ addressed as ________________________________.

I give consent to ________________________________ (name of certified Operation and Maintenance firm) to use the Mechanical remediation (e.g. air injection method like Terralift) procedure on the drainfield of my septic system with Record ID ON_________________.

I acknowledge:

- A mechanical remediation application may not fix existing problems and could harm the drainfield and lead to its failure.
- If the drainfield fails, I must replace the on-site sewage system. The Health Department may open a Code Enforcement case to ensure compliance.
- My on-site sewage system will require routine inspections after the mechanical remediation application.
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department does not guarantee the mechanical remediation application will be effective and is not responsible for any damage the mechanical remediation method may cause to my on-site sewage system.

Signature ________________________________ Date __________________________