

Frequently Asked Questions of the 208 Water Quality Certification Process for Septic Tanks

- **What information is needed with the submission of a certification form?**
 - Completed Applicant Section on the BCDCOG Form.
 - Location Map
 - (Optional) Availability letter from local public sewer provider – provision of which will speed the review process.

- **What fee do I have to pay?**

As of June 2001, **no fee** is charged for this review.

However, a fee will be instituted in the future, based on the following fee schedule:

- Small Subdivision: 2-4 Lots = no charge
 - Medium Subdivision: 5-10 Lots = \$50
 - Large Subdivision: 11 or more Lots = \$230
- **About how long does the review take?**

The review should not take longer than 5 working days. It often takes less time.
 - **What does the BCDCOG review?**

The BCDCOG reviews the proposed subdivision to determine whether the project is in conformance with the [Regional Water Quality Management Plan](#). Generally, the BCDCOG is reviewing whether public sewer is available to the site. If public sewer is available to the site, the use of septic systems will not be permitted. This policy is also backed up by state regulation 61-57: Development of Subdivision Water Supply and Sewage Treatment/Disposal Systems.

The Regional Water Quality Management Plan specially states that:

D-4. Septic And Individual Disposal Systems

Septic and individual disposal systems are an acceptable means of waste disposal assuming they are designed and maintained properly, and located on a suitable site. Unfortunately, poorly located, designed or failed systems are believed to contribute greatly to nonpoint source pollution problems in many local drainage basins in this region.

Where feasible, areas served by septic and individual disposal systems should be required to connect to a centralized treatment system, especially in those areas where septage is believed to contribute significantly to pollution problems. Such connections maximize the use of the system, its economical operation, and avoids surface and groundwater contamination resulting from septic and individual system failure. Septic and individual disposal systems not required to obtain a NPDES Permit are the responsibility of the State Department of Health & Environmental Control rather than Designated Management Agencies.

The BCDCOG recognizes DHEC regulations requiring individuals who commercially install septic systems to be licensed. The COG also recognizes the need for septage pumpers/haulers to have access to approved disposal sites and to provide for an adequate distribution of such sites among local treatment facilities.

- [If I have a question, who can I contact?](#)

Ron Mitchum - Executive Director
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
1362 McMillan Ave., Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 529-0400
ronm@bcdcog.com

--or--

Tara Frederick - Office Manager
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
1362 McMillan Ave., Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 529-0400
taraf@bcdcog.com

- [What if I disagree with the staff decision?](#)

The staff bases its decision on the information provided to them by the applicant and local service provider. If there is an error with that information, BCDCOG staff will work with the applicant to correct the error. If the information is correct, but the applicant disagrees with the staff decision, a plan determination will then be made by the Environmental Committee, which advises the BCDCOG. The Environmental Committee will review the information and make its own plan determination. This decision can then be appealed to our full COG board. Any further appeals would be taken to court.

Appeal Process:

- Meeting with staff concerning question.
- Request appeal of staff decision to Environmental Committee.
- Request appeal of Environmental Committee to Full COG Board.
- Appeal decision of Full COG Board to the Circuit Court.