



Joint Environmental Committee

May 7, 2011

Status Report: Alternative Onsite Sewage System Regulations Update

In late March, Governor Bob McDonnell granted a six-month extension on the adoption of the final alternative onsite sewage system regulations. The emergency regulations currently in effect will be extended for a similar period.

Under the Administrative Process Act, Virginia Department of Health (VDH) was required to adopt the final regulations no later than April 6, 2011.

No official reason was given for the extension, but it was intimated by the Division of Onsite Sewage that they had received a number of conflicting comments on the proposed final regulations that had to be resolved.

VDH plans to have the final regulations to the Board of Health at their June meeting with an effective date no later than October 6, 2011.

VDH empowered the Sewage Handling and Disposal Advisory Committee [both VACo and VML are members of that body] to review the public comments and try to reach a consensus on some of the issues arising from the public comment. That group held three specific meetings on the final regulations; the last took place on April 1, 2011. In the end, however, VDH staff will make the final decision on the content and scope of the final regulations.