



Unsuitable Classification

The permitting and installation of septic systems in North Carolina are governed by State rules and regulations (www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/osww_new/new1//). Person County Environmental Health Specialists are authorized by the State to evaluate soil/site conditions, design systems, and issue permits in accordance with State rules and regulations.

A septic system uses the natural soil to filter, purify and dispose of wastewater. When a site evaluation indicates that the site/soil conditions are *unsuitable* for the installation of a septic system, the Environmental Health Specialist must issue a *denial letter* to the applicant/property owner. The letter will list the specific reasons for the *unsuitable* classification. In addition, the letter will list the following ways in which the classification can be appealed:

- 1) Request an 'Informal Review' by a State Regional Soil Scientist. Once a request has been made through Person County Environmental Health, a site visit will be scheduled and the soil scientist will conduct an independent evaluation of the site.
- 2) Hire a consulting soil scientist to independently evaluate the property. If the soil scientist believes that the property was improperly classified, then the consultant may submit a proposal to Environmental Health for review.
- 3) File a formal appeal with the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings www.oah.state.nc.us/hearings/h06.doc (forms also available at Environmental Health Office). Once the appeal is filed, a hearing will be scheduled in order to determine if all applicable rules and regulations were followed. www.oah.state.nc.us/hearings (919) 431-3000.

We encourage citizens to exercise any of their appeal rights if they believe that a permit for a septic system was improperly denied by Person County Environmental Health.

Surface Disposal

The Person County Health Department is responsible for permitting septic systems, which are installed below the ground surface. When a septic system cannot be permitted due to site/soil conditions, surface disposal/discharge systems are sometimes an option. These systems must be designed by engineers and are permitted through the NC Division of Water Quality (919) 791-4200(<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/home>).