

**Central District Health Department  
Boise, Idaho**

**Environmental Health**

**I. Title:** Nutrient-Pathogen Study

**Policy No: LD-05-01**

**II. Objective:** The goal of Central District Health Department's (CDHD) Nutrient-Pathogen Study Policy is to continue to meet the intent of Idaho's Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rule, IDAPA 58.01.03, and Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rule, IDAPA 58.01.11. In pursuit of this objective, CDHD may require demonstration that any proposed subsurface sewage disposal system, particularly those proposed within the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) designated Nitrate Priority Areas, will comply with the above rules. The intent of such demonstration is to document the correct number of proposed sewage systems that may occupy a parcel of land and to adequately document and demonstrate that the proposed system(s) for the site will not impact human health by significantly impacting the quality of ground water and/or surface water within the State of Idaho.

**III. Scope:** This policy establishes a consistent standard for requiring nutrient-pathogen studies for developments utilizing individual subsurface sewage disposal systems. It also ensures that CDHD staff conveys consistent concepts and guidance to clients and others regarding the requirement to perform a nutrient-pathogen study.

**IV. Policy Statement:** It is the policy of CDHD to require demonstration from developers/applicants who propose subsurface sewage disposal systems for development in areas IDEQ has designated as Nitrate Priority Areas that meet the criteria stated below. The demonstration will follow the Nutrient-Pathogen Evaluation Program for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems prepared by the IDEQ.

**IV.A.** CDHD requires a nutrient-pathogen study for the following types of developments when on-site wastewater treatment systems are proposed and the development is to be built in an IDEQ designated Nitrate Priority Area.

1. Platted subdivisions of five or more lots as defined by the local city or county planning and zoning authority where the minimum buildable lot size is less than five acres;
2. Commercial facilities generating 600 gallons or more of wastewater per day where the minimum buildable lot size is less than five acres; and
3. Lot splits or accessory dwellings in platted subdivisions that result in additional waste water flows not previously evaluated in the nutrient-pathogen study used to approve the development.

**IV.B.** CDHD may also require a nutrient-pathogen study (as prescribed by the IDEQ guidance document) on parcels of land where unusual conditions or circumstances give rise to concern about surface and/or ground water quality.

**V.** CDHD will not require a nutrient-pathogen study for a proposed lot split or an accessory dwelling in a platted subdivision located in a IDEQ designated Nitrate Priority Area that was not required to conduct a nutrient-pathogen study when sanitary restrictions were lifted. However, where the lot split or accessory dwelling results in more than one dwelling unit per five (5) acres, CDHD will require the use of an approved nutrient-reducing system capable of achieving an effluent concentration of 27 mg/l or less total nitrogen for the new lot or dwelling.

**VI. Procedures:** The following process will be followed when a proposal is submitted to CDHD for a subdivision and/or lot splits as defined in IV.A. above.

**VI.A.** A pre-development meeting with CDHD must take place if site-specific soil, ground water, or surface water data are to be collected in support of the nutrient-pathogen study. IDEQ representatives may also be requested to attend the pre-development meeting.

**VI.B.** If the development is required to conduct a nutrient-pathogen study, two (2) copies shall be submitted to CDHD. CDHD will forward one (1) copy to IDEQ for review.

**VI.C.** For subdivisions proposing community, central, or large soil absorption systems, or subdivisions where CDHD is requiring a nutrient-pathogen study that borders permanent or intermittent surface water that is hydraulically connected to ground water, a pre-development meeting must take place between the applicant/consultants, IDEQ, and CDHD, prior to any submittal.

**VI.D.** The nutrient-pathogen study will be reviewed by both CDHD and IDEQ, with the Land Development Supervisor and/or the Land Development Senior being the primary contact to IDEQ.

**VI.E.** Once the nutrient-pathogen study is approved, a letter of approval will be sent to the consultant and developer by CDHD.

**VI.F.** The following note shall be placed on the plat for subdivisions required to utilize nutrient reducing systems. "Central District Health Department requires nutrient reducing systems capable of achieving \_\_\_ mg/L Total Nitrogen on lots \_\_\_ through \_\_\_."

Authorized:



Date: 7/2/15

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Approved:



Date: 7/2/15

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