



Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Ron DeSantis
Governor



Noah Valenstein
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 7, 2021

TO: Certified Environmental Health Professional in Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS)

FROM: Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, CEHP, State Toxicologist & Chief
Bureau of Environmental Health, Department of Health *Kendra F. Goff*

Benjamin M. Melnick, Director *Benjamin M. Melnick*
Division of Water Resource Management, Department of Environmental Protection

SUBJECT: Certification Requirements for OSTDS

INFORMATION ONLY

The Florida Clean Waterways Act (SB 712) became effective on July 1, 2020. As a result, the Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Onsite Sewage Program is transferring on July 1, 2021, from DOH to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), collectively referred to as agencies.

The Certified Environmental Health Professional (CEHP) certification is referred to in various statutes, rules and DOH policy. The December 2020 joint recommendation report submitted to the Governor and Legislature by both agencies includes a recommendation that on July 1, 2021, the agencies will cooperate to ensure that, at a minimum, the appropriate education and training regarding the public health and environmental aspects of the OSTDS program is available to the agencies' employees and private site evaluators.

The agencies are committed to an orderly transition of the Onsite Sewage Program to DEP. As will be stated in the interagency agreement between DOH and DEP for the transfer, the agencies will continue to administer the certification in OSTDS under section 381.0101, Florida Statutes. This will allow OSTDS site evaluations to continue for both the state employees and private evaluators.

For the current CEHP certification and renewal period ending September 30, 2021, the existing procedures will remain in place. CEHPs requesting renewal will do so as usual through the CEHP program office in the DOH Bureau of Environmental Health. The certification will be required for employees of either agency performing environmental health or sanitary evaluation of OSTDS, as well as private site evaluators.