On-Site Sewage System Operation & Maintenance
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YEAH, I'LL QUIT SOMEDAY...
...WHEN IT STOPS BEIN' FUN.
Test Your Knowledge

Q: In Clark County, how many On-Site Sewage systems are there?

A: approximately 34,500

Q: What percentage of drinking water is pulled from the ground aquifer?

A: 98%
Applicability

- Clark County Public Health (CCPH) regulates on-site sewage systems under
  - Washington State Administrative Code 246-272A
  - Clark County Code 24.17
Operation & Maintenance Goals

- **Protect drinking water resources (ground and surface)**
  - Private and public well locations.
  - Surface waters like Whipple Creek, East Fork Lewis, Burnt Bridge Creek, Lacamas Lake, etc.

- **Prevent direct exposure to pathogens.**
  - Surfacing sewage.

- **Protect homeowner investment**
  - New OSS cost $15,000 on average.
  - Public Sewer connection can cost around $8,000 - $15,000
  - Frequent inspections and maintenance can extend the life a OSS system.
OSS In East Fork Lewis
Inspection Compliance

- Currently OSS inspection is voluntary compliance.

- July 2015
  - Inspection compliance at 49%
  - Past Due Operation and Maintenance begins (PDOM)

- May 2018
  - Inspection compliance at 70%
Percentage of Non-Compliant (10,626) OSSs and Length of Time Since Last Inspection

- Total
- Standard
- Pressure Distribution
- Advanced
- Food Establishment

Amount of Time OSS is Overdue in
Inspections Moving Forward

- CCPH is moving from voluntary to mandatory inspection compliance.

- First phase is complete through adding additional financial aid resources to Clark County residence who need major repairs or replacement.

- Researching responsible enforcement tools.

- CCPH is looking at rolling out mandatory compliance over a 5-7 year period.
  - Focus on Zones of Contribution
  - Focus on water sheds, such as Whipple Creek and East Fork Lewis.
On February 14, 1990, NASA’s Voyager 1 took a picture of our solar system beyond the orbit of Neptune. The “pale blue dot” is earth. At the time Voyager 1 was 40 astronomical units (equates to 3 trillion 720 billion miles) from the sun.
QUESTIONS