



**- POLICY DOCUMENT -  
SUSSEX COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

APPROVED/REVISED

DATE: 7/11/07

BY: [Signature]

**SEPTIC TANK ABANDONMENT POLICY**

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) working under the authority of the State of Delaware requires the septic tank be abandoned upon connection to a central wastewater system (Delaware Code 5.06010). This procedure is further addressed in Sections 110-4B and 110-72 of the Sussex County Code.

**PROCEDURES FOR TANK ABANDONMENT**

**(1)** A Sussex County licensed plumber must first obtain a sewer connection permit, which authorizes connection to the sanitary sewer system. The permit also requires all septic tanks to be abandoned. Sussex County Code 110-72 defines proper abandonment as follows: "Abandoned septic tanks and cesspools shall be made safe and harmless by removal or cleaned of sludge and filled completely with any appropriate material such as rubble, gravel or borrow."

**(2)** The licensed plumber is required to contact Sussex County Engineering Department to schedule an inspection of the sanitary sewer connection. If the connection is acceptable the County representative will signoff on the permit document and return it to the permitting office.

**(3)** If the septic tank is not properly abandoned at the time of the approved sewer connection the inspector will advise the plumber and/or owner that they have 30 calendar days to complete this task. Property owners with tanks not abandoned within the specified period are subject to penalties as outlined in Sussex County Code 110-78.

**General information**

If at any time a plumber has five septic tanks that have not been properly abandoned the County will suspend issuance of sewer connection permits. The plumber will be notified in writing that they may not obtain any additional sewer connection permits until one or more tanks has been completed and approved by Sussex County.