



Michael F. Easley, Governor

William C. Ross Jr., Secretary
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural ResourcesLisa W. Kipp, P.E., Director
Division of Water Quality

August 29, 2005

John Davis,
Appian Consulting Engineers, PA
225 Hillsboro Street, Suite 260
Raleigh NC 27603

Subject: Wastewater flow rates for veterinarian clinics

Dear Mr. Davis:

In an email dated April 19, 2005, you requested guidance in determining wastewater flow rates for a veterinarian clinic that may require a surface drip irrigation wastewater disposal system in Chatham County. My initial response was "since a veterinarian clinic is not identified by the table listed in O2H 0.219 (1) (2), the minimum allowable design daily flow can be determined by classifying the clinic as either a business or office (at 25 gpd per employee). If operation patterns, occupancy, and potable water use data of the clinic are available, these can also be used to justify the use of an alternative flow rate."

After discussing my initial response to your question internally within the Division, the general consensus was that a design flow of 25 GPD per person for a vet clinic would be sufficient, unless the employees are pulling 16-hour shifts, showering, or have some other high-use activities. If water is used to wash dogs, cats, etc. and wash down the cages, that should also be taken into consideration.

However, my response also included the following statement: "I was advised by my supervisor that in our proposed regulations (probably effective 4/2006) a new design flow criterion is proposed for veterinary offices of 250 gal/practitioner/shift. This would not include any boarding facilities, kennels, hospital services (overstays for the patients). An additional 20 gal/pos (cage or kennel) would be added for those facilities. Even though these regulations are not effective yet, I think they can and should be used for guidance in the meantime. I do apologize if I've caused any confusion, and please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns."

This letter is to serve as verification that we have discussed this matter. If a more formal response is necessary or if you have any question regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (919) 715-6188.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Toni Wyder, EI
Land Application Unit

cc: Raleigh Regional Office, Aquifer Protection Section

For North Carolina
Naturally

Aquifer Protection Section
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