

**UAACOG**  
**Water Quality Planning Policy, January 1, 2007**

**TITLE**  
**Municipal / Regional Wastewater Facility Site Applications:**  
**Recommendation Criteria: Septage Disposal Planning and Design Policy**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this UAACOG Water Quality Planning Policy is to require the planning, management and wastewater facility design for treatment of septage generated within an identified septage collection service area.

The UAACOG is the Upper Arkansas regional water quality planning agency and it reviews and makes recommendations on wastewater treatment site applications for new and expanded treatment facilities in its 4-county region. This policy will be used in reviewing and making decisions on formal recommendations to the Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) on municipal / regional wastewater site application reviews.

**SITE APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION CRITERIA:**

Beginning January 1, 2007 the UAACOG will review municipal / regional wastewater treatment facility site applications for new or expanded treatment works that include an accounting of and plan for treating septage that is projected to be brought to the facility from an identified service area. The UAACOG will look to the WQCD staff for their engineering review expertise as the WQCD staff determine the capability of the new treatment works' design capability to accept and treat septage. The UAACOG WQ Planning staff will recommend approval of site applications that have a plan quantifying septage delivered from an identified service area and the related treatment facility design capability.

**SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:**

- 1) The 4-county UAACOG region has been and is projected to continue to employ Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS), commonly known as septic systems, as a means of wastewater treatment in unincorporated areas for the distant future. Population growth, especially in unincorporated areas, of 2.0% to 4.0% is projected by the Colorado Demographer for the next 10 year period in the four-county area.
- 2) The UAACOG 2005 Regional Water Quality Plan documents the current generation of millions of gallons of concentrated high-strength septage in its four-county area. For example, the 2005 UAACOG WQ Plan cites the current

generation of 2.75 million gallons per year of septage in the UAACOG's least populated county of Custer (Custer Chapter –page 27), and the generation of 9.13 million gallons per year of septage in the UAACOG's most populated county of Fremont (Fremont County – page 37).

- 3) Boards of County Commissioners, as water quality management agencies, are or may be considering ISDS management and maintenance programs that require septic tank pumping at scheduled intervals and septage disposal facilities will be needed within economical haul distances, hence the need for planning and developing regional disposal treatment facilities.
- 4) The Colorado Water Quality Control Division considers site applications for municipal / regional wastewater treatment works based upon any approved water quality plan in accordance with the Water Quality Control Act and Regulation 22 section 22.3. In current practice, the WQCD does not require that local planning agencies account for septage disposal as the WQCD does not regulate the specific content of local plans. (Memorandum from Ron Falco of the WQCD to the Water Quality Control Commission dated September 28, 2006) Hence the need for the UAACOG, as the regional water quality planning agency, to adopt a policy to address this serious water quality degradation issue.

THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the UAACOG adopts this Municipal / Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Site Application-Septage Disposal Review and Recommendation Criteria Water Quality Planning Policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE of this Water Quality Policy as adopted by an affirmative vote of the Board of Directors of the UAACOG at its regular meeting of February 21, 2007, is February 21, 2007.

By the Board of Directors of the UAACOG:

Allen Butler May 11, 2007  
Allen Butler, Chairman                      Date