

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



Proper Closeout of Wastewater Treatment Facilities  
Regulation 61-82

**April 11, 1980**

**BUREAU OF WATER**

**DISCLAIMER**

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**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

**Regulation 61-82. Proper Closeout of  
Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

The following regulation is promulgated pursuant to Section 48-1-50 of the 1976 S.C. Code of Laws. If any section, sentence or phrase of this Regulation is declared unconstitutional or void for any reason, the remainder of this Regulation shall remain effective and shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION I: Definitions**

The definition of any work or phrase employed in Section II, III, IV and V shall be the same as given in the S.C. Pollution Control Act. The following words or phrases, which are not defined in said law, shall be defined as follows:

1. Lagoon - Lagoon shall mean a relatively small body of water contained in an earthen basin or controlled shape which is designed for treatment or handling wastewater.
2. Package Plant - Package plant shall include prefabricated factory assembled units and other modular type units designed for the treatment of wastewater through activated sludge processes and modifications thereof. Although not generally considered a package plant, for the purpose of this Regulation, Imhoff tanks shall be considered a package plant.
3. Closeout - Closeout shall mean the cessation of waste treatment facility operations in accordance with the appropriate sections of this Regulation.
4. Abandonment - Abandonment shall mean the cessation of daily visits to the waste treatment facility by the certified operator in charge for the purpose of insuring proper operation and maintenance of a waste treatment facility.
5. "Should" and "Shall" - Should is permissive and shall is mandatory.

## **SECTION II: Proper closeout of lagoons**

1. Lagoons shall be drained only after written permission has been obtained from DHEC and in accordance with one of the below procedures, (procedures in order of decreasing desirability):
  - a. Sewage from the lagoon may be pumped into the treatment facility or receiving system replacing the lagoons, provided that the rate is such that hydraulic and/or organic overloading and surging of the replacement system is prevented and provided that permission is obtained from the owner of the replacement system; or
  - b. If the above method is not possible, the lagoon may be drained into the receiving stream at a rate not exceeding the maximum design flow of the lagoon, provided that before draining, the lagoon is allowed to stabilize without additional inflowing sewage for a period not less than the design detention time of the lagoon.
2. In each of the above alternatives, the lagoon shall be drained from the surface of the lagoon to prevent accumulated solids on the bottom of the lagoon from being carried out of the lagoon.
3. After the treated sewage has been drained from the lagoon, solid accumulation on the bottom of the lagoon shall be allowed to dry. A disinfectant suitable for control of odors and vectors shall be applied to all remaining solids when determined necessary by DHEC. After drying the solids should be mixed with soil and left on the bottom of the lagoon, be removed for disposal in an approved land fill, or disposed in some other approved method.
4. The lagoon may be filled with soil or may be allowed to remain bowl shaped, so as to be utilized for purposes other than waste handling, i.e., fish ponds, irrigation ponds, etc., provided that this practice does not violate local health and vector control regulations and DHEC approval of the close-out is obtained prior to any alternative use of the facility.

### **SECTION III: Proper closeout of package plants**

Package plants shall be drained in accordance with one of the following procedures:

- a. Sewage may be pumped into the treatment facility or receiving system replacing the package plant, provided that the rate is such that overloading of the replacement system is prevented and provided that permission is obtained from the owner of the replacement system; or
- b. Sewage may be pumped into portable tanks for transfer and disposal in a sewer system, provided that permission is obtained from the owner of the receiving system.

### **SECTION IV: Proper closeout of waste treatment facilities not defined as lagoons and package plants.**

Waste treatment facilities not defined as lagoons and package plants shall be closed out in accordance with guidelines issued by DHEC on an individual basis. These guidelines shall be designed to prevent health hazards and to promote safety in and around the abandoned sites.

### **SECTION V: Procedures applicable to all closeouts**

1. A request for site inspection for closeout shall be made by the responsible official to DHEC.
2. A site inspection shall be conducted by DHEC and authorization to proceed with closeout granted by DHEC.
3. Monitoring as deemed necessary by DHEC to prevent water quality violations or nuisance conditions will be established on a case-by-case basis and carried out in accordance with DHEC guidance.
4. Upon completion of closeout the responsible party shall request an inspection by DHEC. The results of the inspection shall be reduced to writing and forwarded to the responsible official approving or disapproving the closeout. In cases of disapproval, discrepancies shall be noted and a follow-up inspection scheduled.

5. Closeout will be considered accomplished only after approval in writing from DHEC.
6. Areas around all waste treatment facilities undergoing closeout shall remain secured until closeout has been accomplished. In an instance of package plant closeout, the plant shall remain secured until electrical power has been disconnected and the plant is removed from the premises and depressions resulting from the removal of the system filled.

#### **SECTION VI: Penalties**

Any person determined to be in violation of the procedures outlined in this Regulation or found to have abandoned a waste treatment facility without initiating and completing approved closeout of the waste treatment facility shall be subject to civil and criminal penalties prescribed in Section 48-1-320 and 48-1-330 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976.