

Septic Repair Timeline

This document is not all inclusive, and does not document a substantial number of email and phone conversations between listed dates.

10/2017 – Damp area on “A” field. Olympic sewer could not bypass area due to high water level. Large amount of bio-mat in soil was observed. It was decided that we should start investigating the cost of a new septic system, and find an Engineer to assist us. No septic Engineers in Jefferson County were available to take on the work. Washington DOH highly recommended ADC Engineering in Tacoma, Wa.

01/11/18 Broken lateral line on East side of “A” Field. – Repaired.

02/17/18 Engineer’s visit. Dug inspection holes on Meadow and green space on 2nd street. (2nd street area composed of fill material and not suitable for a drain field.) Interior of Meadow septic lines were observed to be 99% filled with waste and bio-mat.

02/23/18 DOH requests that ADC and/or DBR submit a letter to the DOH explaining the situation, describing the evaluation ADC conducted, and outlining the recommendations to repair the distribution lines with equal-sized perforated pipe placed in the same trenches as the original pipe. He suggested that we express our opinion that this work constitutes a repair, not a modification, and as such does not require a project permit, and to ask that DOH confirm that this is the case.

02/27/18 Letter sent to DOH by ADC.

03/01/18 Letter from DOH to proceed with repairs to meadow.

03/03/18 Email from ADC with proposal to complete work to repair meadow drain field.

03/06/18 Email from DOH indicating Jefferson County “expressing concern” about the repair to our Meadow septic field. Jeff. Co. said the evaporation basin had been compromised and DOH instructed us to hold off on any repairs.

03/06/18 Email from ADC re: DOH: I received a call from John Zinza today. He told me that, after discussing the project with folks in the office, he's decided that he write a formal letter saying to proceed with the repairs, and he will open a DOH project for the work. He assured me that DOH won't require a formal engineering review and project submittal; from our side the project should proceed as we've stated. He explained that without a project number, the data won't get into their data base.

03/07/18 From Dotti Ramey, Engineer, ADC Wastewater Engineering: Under the **Washington Public Records Act, §42.56 et seq.**, I am requesting electronic copies of Reports, letters, Operations & Maintenance manuals, or Technical Guidance documents pertaining to the Discovery Bay RV Resort LOSS system (Permit # JEF002).

Discovery Bay RV Resort is a client of ADC Wastewater Engineering, Inc. The purpose of this request is to support project work for our client; the information will not be used for commercial gain.

The Washington Public Records Act requires a response to this request be made within five business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

03/09/18 From DOH to ADC: I want to express again appreciation for Barb's below message that clearly shows responsible action to addressing public health concerns at the Discovery Bay Resort LOSS. We also appreciate that you desire to move quickly forward with repairs for this system. I was able to share and discuss the failure at this LOSS with my supervisor Denise Lahmann. We both agree that an extensive effort to replace laterals is beyond the scope and intent of the provisions for repairs in our rule. Our plan is to respond with a formal letter covering our requirements, which we anticipate issuing the early part of next week.

03/09/18 ADC agrees to not make any major "repairs" until further notice from DOH.

03/14/18 Certified letter from DOH to not proceed with large scale repairs, and re: the involvement of Jefferson County. DOH stated that due to Jeff. Co. issues, they are "inclined to slow things down and make sure things are fully reviewed and addressed".

03/19/18 Email to DBR from ADC: We confirmed with John Zinza that you do not need to involve ADC in the immediate repairs you are currently performing. You can do everything, and then just provide him with an update when you are done.

Attached is my estimate for doing a major upgrade to your system: Replacing a majority of ET distribution laterals and trench gravel; replacing your tanks with new and larger tanks to allow for flow equalization; adding a treatment system; and a new control panel to allow for timed dosing to the ET system.

I think this would buy you a very long-term solution.

03/23/18 Repairs made to leaking lateral line on East side of "A" field.

03/23/18 From DBR to ADC: Our Board of Directors is crunching the numbers and figuring out the financial end of this. Everyone on the BOD agrees that it is best to spend the money and install pre-treatment for the longevity of the system and protection of public health. At what point can we share and see if Wa. DOH (and Jeff. Co.) is open to this option?

Numerous discussions back and forth between Facilities and ADC about park history, Jefferson County, our good relationship with DOH, etc. Many discussions about septic flow rates, water usage and population data. Took samples and provided voluntary test results of BOD and TSS samples from the effluent tank and ditches surrounding the meadow.

06/27/18 To DBR from ADC: I spoke with John Zinza and he said he would like us to submit a full Pre-Design Report for their review. Then they would schedule a date to come look at the soils with us. He like the idea (of course) of replacing the entire system.

07/13/18 From ADC: I forgot to answer your question regarding the pre-design report in my previous email. The main milestone we need to cross in order to prepare the pre-design report is to understand

what an appropriate design flow should be for the resort. The information we have to date is a bit inconclusive, which is why I asked for the most recent data. Dotti has that information now and is crunching the numbers to see what we come up with. DOH will want us to quantify an appropriate design flow per site rather than per person, which is why I asked in my previous email if you can tell us what a good average to use would be as far as people per site on average (2? 2.5? 1.5? etc). Once we have established an appropriate site-wide design flow we can then complete our basis of design and the pre-design report.

One thing to note is that we just found out on Wednesday that today is John Zinza's last day. So another key step in this process is that we'll need to discuss your project with Andrew Jones at DOH, who is the engineer that will be taking over on your project. We need to confirm how he wants us to prepare our report now that John is gone. More to come on that in the next couple of weeks. (Change over at DOH accounts for the slow down in the process.)

07/19/18 From ADC: We have spent a considerable amount of time trying to come up with a good design flow per person. However, the numbers are just simply all over the board. We based the flows on pump run times and occupancies reported for each week.

Can you help to make heads or tails of this? We really can't go anywhere until we figure out a safe design flow per person that we can all stand behind. (I reviewed ADC's numbers and spent a considerable amount of time calculating and justifying water usage and septic flow rates, and finding the reason for abnormal numbers. I researched and compiled past annual population data, monthly temperatures, and tendency to drip water when cold.)

07/25/18 From ADC: We've updated the spreadsheet and we think we have landed on an appropriate design flow per site. We used the dry months of week June 22, 2017 through week September 28 2017 to make sure we were not dealing with any potential surface/groundwater infiltration or faucet dripping. Using this period, maximum weekly average of 40 gpd per person. We have to apply a factor of 1.5 to those figures to come up with a design flow which puts us at 60 gpd per person per day.

The issues we have not yet addressed are surface/groundwater infiltration and the fact that people are letting their faucets drip in the winter time. We are not sure if the infiltration is solely from the Meadow septic and pump tanks (I'm certain they leak), or if we are also dealing with the collection system. In John Z's letter he required an I&I evaluation. I think ultimately you will have to have the entire collection system camera'd in or to determine if any lines still need replacing. In the meantime, this won't slow down our application to DOH.

08/03/18 From ADC: The meeting with Andrew at DOH really well. He wants us to prepare a project application and sort of an abbreviated pre-design report. It will be more of an executive summary like we were originally thinking we could do. But it will contain our justification around designs flows Etc. I am hoping that we can have that prepared and ready to go by the end of next week. First of the following week would be the latest.

Andrew is on board with the fact that we are doing a repair and that you are not proposing to expand the facility, and therefore they have greater flexibility and how they approach and regulate the project improvements. The first step will be our report and summary to him so they can make an initial review,

and then they will schedule a site visit where we will open up test pits for them. After that site visit we will have a very clear understanding about our overall direction.

08/23/18 ADC to DOH: Pre-design report submitted to DOH.

09/28/18 From DBR to ADC: Have you have heard anything back from DOH yet re: the pre-design report?

09/29/18 ADC to DBR: Nothing yet. I will be following up with them shortly.

10/09/18 DBR BOD to ADC:

We appreciate all the work you and your staff have been doing on our LOSS project and are looking forward to getting a system that will serve our community well into the future.

Based on the original projected dates, we anticipated that we would have an approved design and could start construction around September. We have raised the money needed to complete the project, but do not have an approved design yet. We understand some of the reasons for the delay but our community is getting anxious, and we are concerned about going into another wet winter with our existing system.

Everyone has worked hard to help conserve water and reduce the stress on the system, but what is manageable in the summer can be a real hardship on cold wet days. This is particularly true for our older residents and those with major health issues.

We are requesting your help to expedite this project.

Please work with the DOH to schedule the required soil testing. Also, please provide us with an updated timeline for the project that we can share with our community.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Higgins,
President, DBLA BOD

10/10/18 Hi Kathryn,

I realize this has taken considerably longer than you (and we) had hoped. There were a lot of moving targets early on regarding who's jurisdiction this would be, whether or not to propose rehabilitating the existing Meadow system, what the design flows for the project should be, etc. Also with the changing of staff at DOH, it took a bit to get a clear direction from them on how we should proceed. We had also hoped that DOH would allow this to be a simpler process since it's a repair of an existing system. While they are acknowledging that they will allow some flexibility in our design based on that, they are still requiring us to go through the entire multi-step design and review process with them.

We just received an e-mail from DOH yesterday that they are ready to schedule a site inspection, but

first want to confirm that DAHP (Department of Archaeological and Historical Preservation) has no issues with us digging on the site. This is a surprise to us given it's already a fully developed project and we are not proposing any major excavations in areas that haven't already been excavated.

In any case we are working on getting this scheduled with them ASAP. After that site visit and subsequent Site Risk Survey (which they are also requiring) we will have a clear direction on our design approach. They have confirmed that they will want a full set of engineering drawings and a full engineering report to support the design, and that is a considerable effort. We will do everything we can to expedite the process, but to be honest I can't imagine having a permit to construct the system before late December. It's possible that we could get it done more quickly, but it's a multi-stage process.

Let me know if you would like to schedule a call to discuss this further. Please note that I've cc'd Jason Jacobson on this email thread. He will be the engineer carrying this forward, as Dotti has actually taken a position with DOH.

10/12/18 Letter for DOH requiring us to consult with the Dept. of Archeology and Historic Preservation to determine if an inadvertent discovery plan is required for this project.

Correspondence ensued between ADC and DAHP to determine if any special plans or permits were required.

10/29/18 Permission received for DAHP to continue with our septic project.

Many emails to coordinate dates when DOH, ADC and Bernt Erickson Excavating can meet at DBR to open test pits North of Radclyffe.

11/09/18 All parties met, along with a representative from Jefferson County, to examine soils in test pits North of Radclyffe. (The soils and location were not good, but I don't have a date or documentation for their disapproval. See conversation dated 11/ 27/18)

11/10/18 Email from Linda Adkins, Jeff. Co. DOH with attached maps: I appreciate being included in the conversation. You have a challenging time ahead figuring out the best fix for the site. I am glad to provide what information we have and you are welcome to review any other information from the files. It is several inches thick so I didn't scan the whole thing.

I am attaching several documents. First is the wet season evaluation with the number of inches to the water table at each date observed. The highlighted numbers are the actual depth or the water table after subtracting the height of the port. I thought they must have submitted soils information but it looks like they were going to do it when they submitted a design which they never did. I do remember seeing test holes and don't remember them looking great, just better than what we were seeing on the other side and at least undisturbed. Second is the site plan with the test hole locations. I checked the rainfall during the period Nov. – March for that '98-99' period and it was a bit above average – 109% but nothing dramatic high or low. I didn't remember that they looked at such a broad area but of course it was 20 years ago.... I didn't actually do the wet season evaluation, it was another staff person here.

Third and fourth are the permit ap and site plan for the work that was done in 1990 in the existing evapotranspiration field where some lines were abandoned and some were installed.

Here is a link to the county map site with a screen shot showing the site and wetland layer turned on. Below that is the elevation layer with 5' contour lines. The wetland layer is from an outside source so it may or may not be real. That would definitely need to be assessed by a wetland specialist if you find decent soils to the west of the area. One of the basemaps on the site is hillshade/lidar if you wanted to check that out. There are no mapped streams but that doesn't mean there isn't a surface water drainage that would require a setback of course.

11/27/18 From ADC to DBR: Basically DOH wants to know that we have explored every option to find a drainfield area that meets code. Whether that be across the road (which we know won't be the case), or approaching a neighboring property owner about the possibility of purchasing an easement, or whatever. If we can show that we have exhausted all options and that the grassy area (or perhaps the area you describe below) is truly our best available option, then they will be willing to proceed.

Frank also asked that we place 2 or 3 monitoring ports in the grassy area so that we can monitor the water table levels in that area to see just how high they come. I can send you a detail of a typical monitoring port so you can install them.

We are available pretty much any day next week or the following. Just let me know what works for you and your operator and Jason will be there.

As a side note, if we can't find conforming soils anywhere on the properties you own, we will need to be able to tell DOH why we can't get an easement from a neighboring property owner.

11/30/18 From ADC to DBR: Instructions from ADC where to place perk holes North of Radclyffe. (At this point, ADC and I were still trying to convince DOH that this was a viable location for a drain field. I installed 2 perk holes and 3 monitoring port to monitor ground water in this location. Exploring our options, I also dug 2 holes on the well house property and installed 3 monitoring ports on the upper Nature Trail. As reported to leaseholders, 30-60 days of monitoring was required to get accurate results.

01/15/19 DBR report to ADC regarding perk tests and water table observations.

01/23/19 Upper Nature Trail looks promising. Working to coordinate date with ADC and excavator for soil review.

02/01/19 Deep test holes dug and soils examined.

02/12/19 From ADC: As you know we have DOH's blessing on the new area you found. Thank you for chasing that down!

Next step is to get the drainfield area surveyed with topo trees and existing site features. We are working on an exhibit to show the boundaries of the area that will need to be surveyed. We will use Lidar topography for the remainder of the site.

02/26/19 From DOH: Approval granted to proceed with Engineering of our new septic drain field.

02/26/19 Request from Jefferson County DOH to WA. DOH to get a copy of the report, soils info and site plan showing the location of the test holes.

02/26/19 Surveyor was hired to complete work necessary for completion of the septic design. Survey work took longer than expected due to equipment not being able to withstand the current rainy weather. ADC requested that the surveyor return and add more detail to their maps.

03/28/19 ADC to DBR: Final review of Engineering Report to Facilities Manager before submitting it to Wa. DOH.

04/04/19 Engineering Report submitted to Wa. DOH

04/12/19 While working with ADC on tank placement and access, I submitted a file/drawing/survey to ADC that they did not have in their records. Followed up with our old Engineer to research and send to us these auto-cad drawings. Received and forwarded to ADC for their records.

04/23/19 Surveyor called back out to provide more data points for ADC blue prints.

04/24/19 Response from ADC to my email requesting a progress report: I apologize; we have not reached out to the installers yet. We were waiting for our design to be far enough along for them to give fairly accurate preliminary bids. We should be in pretty good shape to do that in the next week.

I would hope that we have a permit to construct the system by the end of June. Hopefully sooner. Once a contractor starts, they can probably have the system installed and up and running in about 4 weeks. It should be able to be done in a way that causes minimal operational disturbance to the community.

As you can see from the email I cc'd you on earlier, I emailed Andrew (DOH) requesting a status on his review of the Engineering Report. We don't anticipate any significant comments.

04/30/19 Wa. DOH approved the engineering report and is allowing us to move forward with the project.

05/22/19 Preliminary drawings completed and submitted to us for review. These drawings will give contractors enough info to start constructing their bids. I have contacted ADC with some concerns, including the need to cross over utilities, liability for repair and that the connection from our OCC (smaller septic systems) are not included in the drawings.

ADC has indicated that the blue prints will be completed and ready to submit to WA. DOH by the end of next week. (05/31/19)

