DRAFT

SECTION XI: INDIVIDUAL ONSITE SEPTIC SYSTEM POLICY

Greenferry Water and Sewer District

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose for this policy is to protect the Greenferry Water and Sewer District's drinking water sources serving the District's wells from possible contamination from individual onsite septic systems and to promote the health and safety and prosperity of individuals in the
District.

AUTHORITY

IDAHO STATUTES
Title 42
IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE - WATER RIGHTS AND RECLAMATION
CHAPTER 32
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS

42-3201 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. It is hereby declared that the organization of water and sewer districts, having the purposes and powers provided in the act, will serve a public use and will promote the health, safety prosperity, security and general welfare and inhabitants of said districts.

Background and Basis for Policy

The District was declared and organized by the District Court in and for the County of Kootenai in 1977. The District draws its drinking water from wells located in the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (Aquifer). Studies completed by the US Geological Survey, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Idaho Department of Water Resources verify the Districts' wells draw from the Aquifer. The Aquifer is designated as a "Sensitive Resource Aquifer" in the Idaho Groundwater Quality Rules (Rules). This designation provides the highest level of protection as stated in these Rules: the Rules state "the aquifer shall not be degraded, as it relates to beneficial uses, as a result of point source or nonpoint source activity unless it is demonstrated by the person proposing the activity that such change is justifiable as a result of necessary economic or social development".

The District also lies within the boundaries of the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District (KCAPD). The District Board of Directors (Board) believes it is in the best interests of the District desires to be a part of protecting the Aquifer.

DRAFT

The KCAPD was established in 2007 for the purpose of providing aquifer funding for protection activities and to provide education to the public about the importance of the Aquifer. The KCAPD has established a preliminary map showing Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas (SARA). KCAPD states on its website:

"In keeping with our responsibility to ensure sustainable aquifer protection, and in consultation with Kootenai County, PHD, and IDEQ staff, this multi-faceted approach is strongly recommended to effectively protect the RPA from the introduction of contamination from the SARAs. The lack of protection in these areas presents significant contamination risks to the RPA that must be addressed promptly to ensure the viability of the RPA now and into the future" (https://www.kcgov.us/1122/Sensitive-Aquifer-Recharge-Areas-SARA).

The Aquifer is protected from individual onsite septic system contamination on the north side of the Spokane River by Kootenai County. Ordinance No. 574, Emergency Ordinance Re: subsurface sewage disposal limits one individual residential onsite septic system installation to a minimum parcel size of 5 acres in Kootenai County, unless the parcel was created before December 20, 1977. This Ordinance does not extend to the District located on the south side of the Spokane River. Therefore, in furtherance of the purposes of the Ordinance and the reasons set forth in this Policy, the Board is adopting this policy to protect the District's wells in order to minimize further degradation of the water quality. This will be accomplished by implementing septic system requirements for new lots less than five acres located in the District.

Septic System Treatment Requirements

Individual onsite septic systems installed after the date of this policy must be capable of removing a minimum of 40% of the nitrogen in the sewage effluent, and is considered "enhanced treatment".

Onsite septic systems that exist as of the effective date of this policy shall not be required to be upgrade to an enhanced treatment system soley to comply with this policy. However, any existing onsite septic system that is replaced and requires the issuance of a new permit from Panhandle Health shall be replaced with an enhanced treatment system that meets the requirements of this policy.

Septic Tank Pumping Requirements

Any septic tank installed under this policy must be pumped every five years by a septic tank pumper licensed by the Panhandle Health District.

Application of Requirements

The requirement for "enhanced treatment" applies to any lot smaller than 5 acres created after the policy was approved by the Board, located in the Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area ("SARA") and within the District boundary and which is connected to the

DRAFT

District's water distribution system. A map showing the SARA is attached to the Policy. Subdivisions considered a plan unit developments (PUD) having an average lot size of 5 acres or larger will be considered for approval by the Board on a case by case basis.

The requirement for septic tank pumping every five years applies to any septic tank installed after the date the policy is approved by the Board.

Auxiliary Dwelling Unit (ADU)

An applicant for an ADU on existing lots and on lots created after the policy adoption date, will be considered on a case by case basis for the requirement to install an enhanced sewage treatment system as per the policy. Consideration will be based on the amount of new sewage generated and the location of the lot in the district.

Policy Implementation

1. Enhanced Treatment - The policy for enhanced treatment is implemented under a memorandum of agreement (MOU) between the Greenferry Water and Sewer District (District) and Panhandle Health District (PHD). Individuals wanting to install an individual onsite sewage disposal system are required to obtain a permit from the PHD. All septic system applications within District boundaries will be reviewed, based on this policy, by PHD to determine if enhanced treatment will need to be included with the system design. If enhanced treatment is required as a condition of permit approval to meet the District's policy, then PHD staff will assure the requirement is met as a condition of approval under the MOU, which is attached to this policy. If an applicant chooses to install an enhanced treatment system that requires a third-party operator, the District will enforce the need for an annual report from this operator.

2. Septic Tank Pumping Requirements - Individuals installing a septic tank after the date of this policy are required to pump the septic tank every five years. An invoice from a licensed pumper, showing the tank was pumped after being put into use must be submitted to the District office within 30 days of being pumped. The date for the tank being put into use will be the date the PHD gives final inspection approval of the septic tank unless the applicant can show the tank was put into use at a later date.

Enforcement

1. Property owners that are served water by the District and that have installed a septic tank after the date of this policy, and have not submitted a copy of an invoice from a licensed pumper to the Greenferry Water and Sewer District office 5 years after receiving final approval of the septic tank:

Shall receive an onsite notice at their property as well as a letter giving them 60 days to comply.

DRAFT

Failure to comply during this period will result in the water being turned off at the residence served by water from the District.
Current shut fees will be charged to the owner and current turn on fees will also be charged to turn water back on.

References

1. Kootenai County Emergency Ordinance 574
https://www.kcgov.us/DocumentCenter/View/18176/Ordinance-Number-574-Emergency-Ordinance-Taking-Place-of-PHD-Expiring-Rule-1-Septic-per-5-acre-PDF

2. Greenferry Water and Sewer District Source Water Assessment of wells 1 and 2 performed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2007

3. Greenferry water and sewer district wells 1 and 2 modeling report January 2008
https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/water/SwaOnlineFiles/636161154958580809_1280077_Green%20Ferry_Well_1_2_%20Modeling%20Report.pdf

4. Greenferry Water and Sewer District source water assessment report well #2 2009
https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/water/SwaOnlineFiles/636161155313173247_ID1280077%20Well%202%202009%20SWA%20Report.pdf

5. Greenferry Water and Sewer District Source Water Assessment report well #1 2001
https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/water/SwaOnlineFiles/636161130454433782_ID1280077%20Well%201%202001%20SWA%20Report.pdf

3. Idaho Department of Water Resources, letter from Daniel Sturgis ?? date

4. Idaho Ground Water Quality Rule, IDEQ.
https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/admin/LEIA/api/document/download/16365

5. Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District, SARA map
https://www.kcgov.us/1122/Sensitive-Aquifer-Recharge-Areas-SARA

6. Greenferry Water and Sewer District Source Water Protection Plan

Approved June 4 2026