

City of Jacksonville

Septic Tank Phase Out Program

Purpose:

To improve the quality of surface waters and ground waters by achieving the connection of properties located in septic tank failure areas to JEA public sewer service.

Regulations Requiring Connection To Public Sewer Service

- ◆ City Ordinance Code 2000-119-E, Chapter 751. Passed by the Jacksonville City Council in May of 2000. Establishes sources of funding for constructing public sewer lines. Provides a priority list for septic tank failure areas.
- ◆ City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board Rule 3.409F.1.

Reasons For This Program

- ◆ Septic tank failures contribute to the degradation of ground waters and surface waters.
- ◆ Septic tank systems do not function well in some areas of Duval County but had to be utilized when public sewer service was not available.
- ◆ Duval County Health Department, with the City of Jacksonville, ranks Septic Tank Failure Areas with point scores.

JEA Construction Of Public Sewer Service Lines

- ◆ JEA conducts preconstruction public meetings to inform property owners that public sewer service will become available in their area.
- ◆ JEA conducts post construction public meetings to inform property owners that public sewer service is available.
- ◆ Property owners have 365 days following receipt of written notification from JEA to complete one of the following actions: connect the property to public sewer service or obtain a deferment from connection requirements.

Utility Tap In Program Grants

- ◆ Available to property owners who can demonstrate documented financial inability to pay for the cost of connection. Maximum allowable family income levels apply in order to qualify for a grant.
- ◆ The property owner must live in the home to qualify for a grant.
- ◆ The program is administered by the City of Jacksonville Housing Commission, which reviews the applications and approves or denies the grants. Funds are provided by the Federal Government.

Deferment of Connection

- ◆ Available to property owners who wish to delay the connection of their septic tank systems.
- ◆ Deferment is approved with the following conditions: the property must be connected to JEA sewer service when it is sold or when the septic tank system fails, whichever event occurs first.
- ◆ A deferment cannot be transferred to a new property owner.

Deferment Of Connection

- ◆ To qualify for a deferment, the septic tank system must be functioning properly.
- ◆ Proper function is determined by the Duval County Health Department.

Deferment Of Connection

- ◆ The deferment application is processed by the City of Jacksonville Department of Public Works. The document is recorded at the Duval County Courthouse.
- ◆ The deferment will appear as a legal document if a title search is conducted for the property.
- ◆ If a septic tank system is not qualified, then connection to public sewer service is required.

City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division Role

- ◆ Coordinate with JEA and Public Works Department to facilitate connections of septic tank phase-out areas.
- ◆ Track and enforce connections when necessary.
- ◆ Assist affected residents as requested.