



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

State Water Quality Division – Wastewater Program

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C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

MEMORANDUM

October 2, 2013

TO: Health District Environmental Health Directors
DEQ Regional Engineering Managers

FROM: Tyler R. Fortunati, R.E.H.S., On-Site Wastewater Coordinator

SUBJECT: Separation Distances from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems to an In-Ground Pool

This memorandum is being provided to ensure statewide consistency in separation distance requirements from a subsurface sewage disposal system to an in-ground pool. Separation distances from drainfields and septic tanks to features of interest/concern are provided in IDAPA 58.01.03.008.02.d and 58.01.03.007.17, respectively. While these tables of separation distances provide direction on several features of interest/concern they do not include in-ground swimming pool foundations.

It is important to ensure to the maximum extent possible that there is no impact from one feature upon the other. For this purpose DEQ interprets a pool foundation to be equal to a basement foundation. Thus the required separation distance from a drainfield to an in-ground pool foundation should be required to be 20 feet. The separation distance from a septic tank to an in-ground pool foundation should be required to be 5 feet. These distances should be measured from the outside of the pool foundation wall to the edge of the drainfield and/or septic tank closest to the pool foundation.

In-ground pools also contain water lines associated with the recirculation/filter system. Any water line associated with the pool that is not encased within the pool foundation requires the normal separation distance from a water line to a subsurface sewage disposal component. The required separation distance from the septic tank or drainfield to a pool water line should meet the requirements of IDAPA 58.01.03.007.17 and 58.01.03.008.02.d, respectively.

A 10% technical allowance in these separation distances can be allowed if necessary and if the allowance meets the requirements of IDAPA 58.01.03.010.01.