WASTEWATER UPDATES

Wastewater Management Program
Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Focus on Change | 2026

AGENDA

- Wastewater Management Program.
- Legislation and revised rules.
- Current rulemaking.
- Current events.
- Reminders and helpful tips.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Wastewater Updates

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Oversees domestic and industrial wastewater regulations and policies.
  - Technical Guidance and Review section.
    - Permit reviews and Permit Builder.
    - Biosolids.
    - Collection systems.
    - Local program delegation.
    - Legislative tracking.
    - Toxicity.
    - Some general permits.
  - Permitting and Field Services section.
    - Industrial wastewater and industrial pretreatment.
    - Reuse.
  - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) power plant permitting.

CONTACTS

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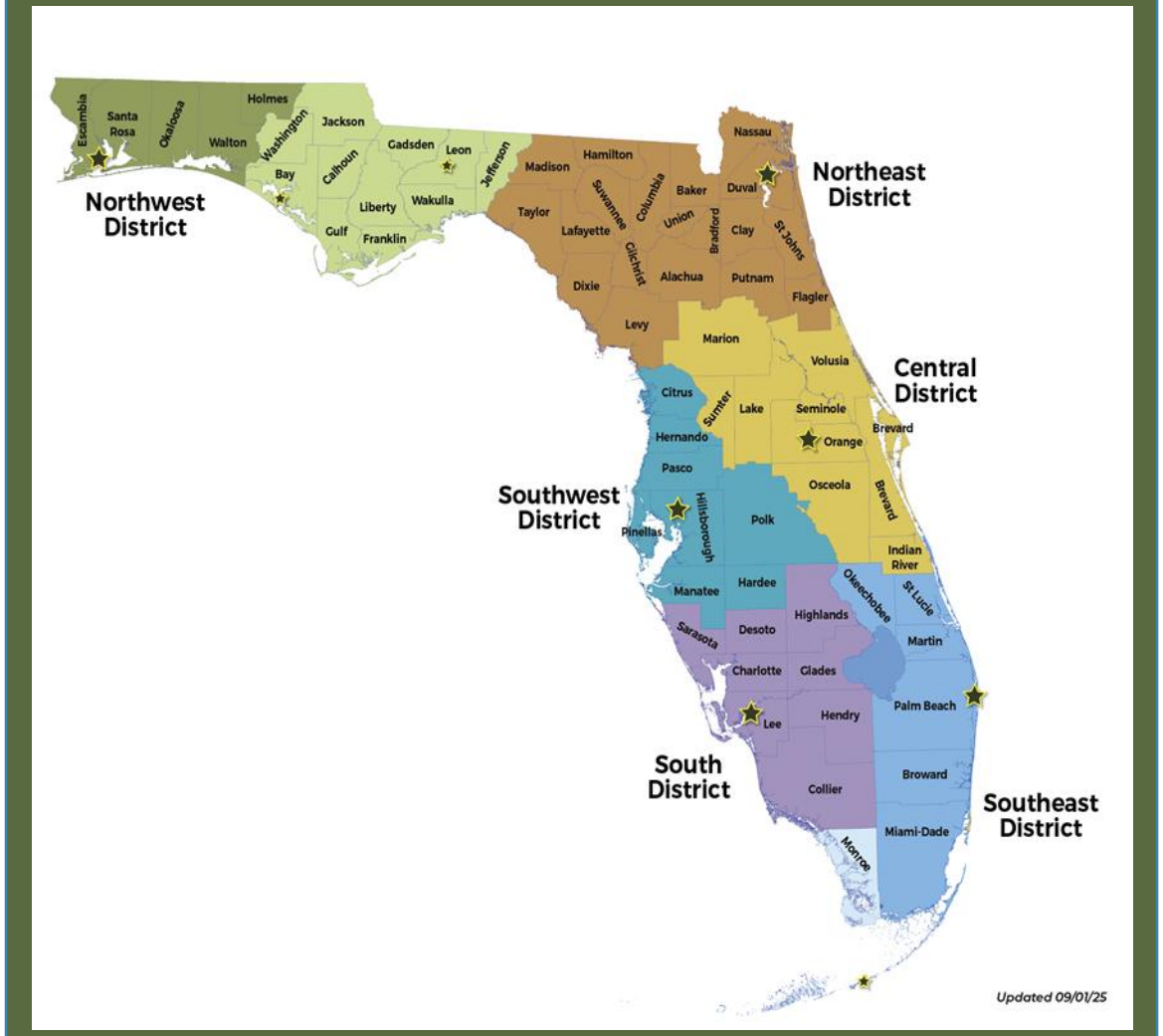
DISTRICT OFFICES

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulatory district offices.
  - Specific permit and compliance questions.
  - District offices webpage: https://floridadep.gov/comm/comm/content/districts.



LEGISLATION AND REVISED RULES

Wastewater Updates

2025 SENATE BILL (SB) 796

CHAPTER 2025-165, LAWS OF FLORIDA (L.O.F.)

- Grants a general permit for the replacement of an existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) with a distributed wastewater treatment system (DWTS).
  - DWTS means an integrated system approach to treating wastewater consisting of one or more distributed wastewater treatment units (DWTU).
  - DWTU means an advanced onsite closed-tank wastewater treatment system that is remotely operated and controlled by the permittee using an electronic control system and designed to achieve secondary treatment standards and a minimum of 80% total nitrogen (TN) removal before discharge to a subsurface application system.
- There are existing individual permits issued for DWTSs in various districts.

2025 BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (BMAP) UPDATE

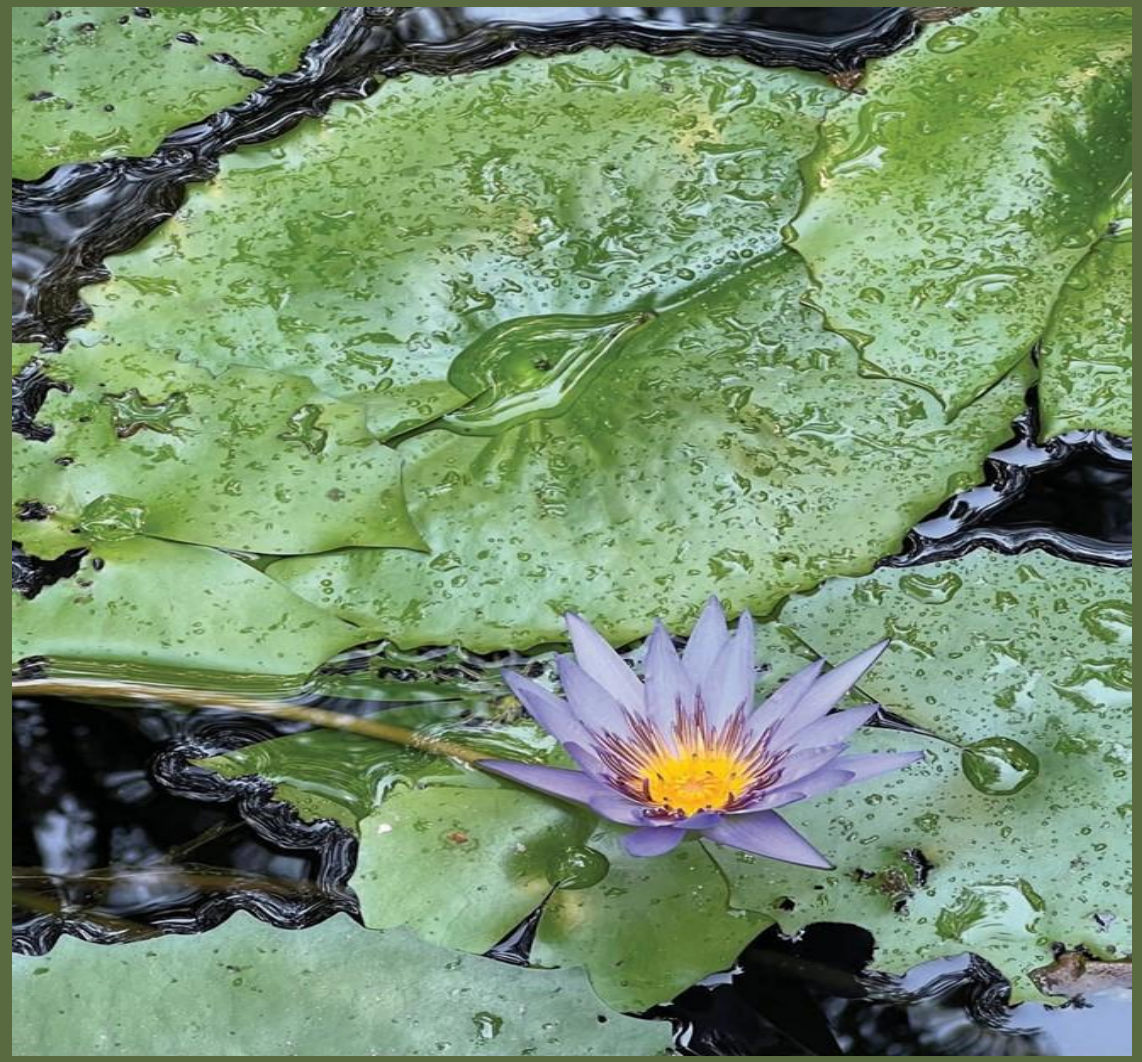
- DEP's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration published 23 new 2025 updates to existing BMAPs.
  - An additional five BMAPs have been petitioned/have been given comment extensions but will eventually become effective.
- Primary impacts to domestic wastewater treatment facilities are the updated effluent limit tables for nutrients based on facility size and disposal method.
  - Section 403.086(1)(c)1.c., Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires surface water discharge within a BMAP region to meet 3 mg/L for TN and 1 mg/L for total phosphorus (TP) by 2033.
  - Section 403.086(1)(c)3., F.S., requires land application discharge to meet the BMAP effluent limitations for the impaired nutrient(s) within 10 years of BMAP adoption.
  - Other disposal types must meet the BMAP effluent limitations for the impaired nutrient(s) at the time of renewal or within five years of BMAP adoption, whichever is sooner.

2024 HOUSE BILL (HB) 1557 UPDATE/STATUS

CHAPTER 2024-180, L.O.F.

- Advanced waste treatment (AWT).
  - Any domestic wastewater treatment facility providing reclaimed water in certain BMAPs or Reasonable Assurance Plans (RAPs) may have to meet the AWT standards for TN and TP or the more stringent treatment standards.
- Reuse feasibility studies are required for all domestic wastewater treatment facility applicants with each permit renewal.
  - Requires different types of reuse to be evaluated.
  - Feasible reuse must be implemented after conducting the study.
- Each water management district shall develop rules by Dec. 31, 2025, to promote the use of reclaimed water and will, in certain circumstances, allow for longer consumptive use permits and permit extensions.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) METHOD UPDATE RULE



- Chapter 62-620, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), was amended in Sept. 2025 to incorporate the amended 40 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.), Part 136, which establishes guidelines for monitoring and testing methods for wastewater permits.
- Updates to 40 C.F.R., Part 136, include:
  - Clarifications to existing methods.
  - Clarifications to sampling and preservation procedures methods.

GREASE RULE – CHAPTER 62-705, F.A.C.

- DEP's Division of Waste Management's (DWM's) Chapter 62-705, F.A.C., "Grease Waste Removal and Disposal," became effective Dec. 7, 2025.
  - Implements section 403.0741, F.S.
  - Establishes requirements for grease waste haulers who remove grease waste from good establishments (originator) for disposal at a certified disposal facility.
  - Grease Waste Forms.
    - Application for Grease Waste Hauler License: DEP form 62-705.300(2).
    - Grease Waste Service Manifest: DEP form 62-705.300(3).
    - Application for Certification of a Grease Waste Disposal Facility: DEP form 62-705.400(2).
  - Permitted wastewater treatment facilities, biosolids treatment facilities and septage management facilities are already approved disposal facilities; no further requirements must be met but keeping records is recommended.
  - DEP's Grease Waste webpage: https://FloridaDEP.gov/GreaseWaste.

CURRENT RULEMAKING

Wastewater Updates

RULE REVIEW

- Rule review conducted per section 120.5435, F.S.
  - The agency must review 20% of rules each year to ensure proper procedure and consistency with expressed legislative intent.
  - In 2025, Chapters 62-606, 62-611 and 62-640, F.A.C., and Rule 62-621.300, F.A.C., were reviewed.
  - The review resulted in technical changes to update links, typographical errors and outdated references.

COLLECTION SYSTEMS

- Proposed revisions to Chapter 62-604, F.A.C.
  - Clarifying the provisions for minimizing inflow, infiltration and leakages (exfiltration).
  - Clarifying the provisions for preventing Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs).
  - Adding a provision requiring power outage contingency plans to address upgrading older pump stations to meet the rule's current emergency pumping capability requirements.
  - Adding a clarifying provision for surface water monitoring when SSOs impact surface waters.
- Notice of Proposed Rule (NOPR) presently being prepared.

DWTS

- Wastewater Management Program has initiated rulemaking to revise and add clarification on permitting and regulation of DWTSs in coordination with SB 796.
- Notices of Rule Development (NORD) published March 27, 2025.
  - Chapter 62-620, F.A.C., Wastewater Facilities and Activities Permitting – minor updates.
  - Chapter 62-621, F.A.C., Generic Permits – no changes currently planned.
  - Chapter 62-699, F.A.C., Treatment Plant Classification and Staffing – minor changes for operator staffing; addresses DWTSs.
- Chapter 62-600, F.A.C., Domestic Wastewater Facilities – NORD published on June 26, 2025.
  - New Rule 62-600.707, F.A.C., is being proposed to specifically address new and replacement DWTSs and DWTUs (design, capacities, setbacks, monitoring, parameter limits, recordkeeping, reporting, bill-related items and forms, etc.).

FORM UPDATES

- Updating forms adopted in Chapter 62-620, F.A.C.
  - Revisions will include all information fields from EPA's NPDES forms, including the federal eReporting Rule.
  - Rule language will be made consistent with previous statutory and rule revisions.
  - Form 2A will be revised.
- NORD published March 7, 2025.
- NOPR presently being prepared and is expected to publish soon.
- Updated forms were adopted in Chapter 62-621, F.A.C., on May 7, 2025.
  - Revisions included all information fields from EPA's NPDES forms, including the federal eReporting Rule.
  - Rule adoption was fast-tracked due to federal regulation.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wastewater Updates

2023 HB 1379 UPDATE/STATUS

CHAPTER 2023-169, L.O.F.

- Addressed pollutant load reduction for Florida's waterways.
  - Requires sewage disposal facilities discharging into specific waterbodies of the state to provide AWT or a more stringent treatment standards if DEP determines necessary.
  - Expands the prohibition of certain activities to the entire Outstanding Florida Springs BMAP areas (no longer limited to just the priority focus areas).
  - Indian River Lagoon Protection Program.
  - Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.
    - Expands the eligibility for grants for wastewater, stormwater and agricultural projects.

For more information on grant programs, contact DEP's Division of Water Restoration Assistance.

https://FloridaDEP.gov/WRA

2021 SB 64 UPDATE/STATUS

CHAPTER 2021-168, L.O.F.

- Section 403.064(16), F.S., requires the elimination of nonbeneficial surface water discharges.
  - Required domestic wastewater facilities to submit plans to DEP by Nov. 1, 2021, to eliminate nonbeneficial surface water discharge by Jan. 1, 2032; DEP received and approved 162 plans.
  - Facilities must **submit annual progress reports to DEP by Nov. 1 each year**.
    - Email address for submittal: NPDESDischargePlan2021@FloridaDEP.gov.
    - **Please try to submit reports in September or October, if possible**.
- 2025 annual legislative report.
  - Approximately 687 million gallons per day (GPD) of surface water discharges will be eliminated by Jan. 1, 2032.
    - Approximately 188 million GPD have already been eliminated.
  - Approximately 482 million GPD of surface water discharges will continue under the allowable alternatives.

DELEGATED LOCAL PROGRAMS

- Upcoming overviews – reviews of Southeast District's delegated local programs will be completed in 2026.
- Current delegated local programs include:
  - Miami-Dade County.
  - Palm Beach County.
  - Broward County (delegated for collection system permitting only).
  - Sarasota County.
  - Hillsborough County (delegated industrial and domestic wastewater).

COLLECTION SYSTEMS

- Power outage contingency plans and collection system action plans are now required with applications for permit renewals.
  - To reduce SSOs, power outage contingency plans are required to mitigate the impacts of power outage on the facility's collection system and pump stations.
    - https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collectiontransmission-system-power-outage-contingency-plans.
  - To mitigate SSOs and leaks, collection system action plans are required to assess, repair and replace components of the collection system.
    - https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collection-system-action-plans.
- Annual cost and expenditures report for pollution prevention related to SSOs, leaks, inflow, infiltration, etc., should be in most public entity permits issued since December 2021.

BIOSOLIDS UPDATE

- The 2021 revisions to Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., have had a significant effect on biosolids application sites, primarily due to new phosphorus-based nutrient requirements.
  - Out of almost 120 sites permitted in 2018, only approximately 58 are still permitted or active, with 18 of those being septage sites.
  - The quantity of Class B biosolids land applied in Florida has decreased from approximately 96,000 dry tons in 2021 to approximately 41,000 dry tons in 2024.
  - The amount of Class AA has increased from approximately 228,000 dry tons in 2021 to about 327,000 dry tons in 2024.
  - Landfilling increased from 61,000 dry tons to approximately 93,000 dry tons in 2024.
  - The largest remaining hauler has entered into a consent agreement order to comply with the new rule requirements no later than mid-2027 at their Osceola sites and by the end of 2028 for sites in the Northeast and Southwest district offices.

SEPTAGE DISPOSAL CHALLENGES

- Following the 2021 revisions to Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., only approximately 18 of the 45 septage sites permitted between 2016 and 2018 remain active.
- BS Ranch and Farm in Polk County stopped receiving septage in September 2024; this facility had been receiving septage from haulers based in Polk and surrounding counties.
- Septage haulers in some other areas of the state, typically rural areas, have limited disposal options.
- Septage haulers are having to transport septage farther distances.
- Interest is increasing in:
  - Septage disposal at wastewater treatment plants.
  - Septage disposal at dewatering facilities, many of which discharge the liquid to sewers.

EPA eREPORTING

- The current federal eReporting Rule deadline has been extended from Dec. 21, 2025, to Dec. 21, 2028.
- The main goals of the federal eReporting Rule:
  - Increase efficiency through paperless processing.
  - Minimize human error through less manual data entry.
- Working on implementing these changes and updating items as needed.

REMINDERS AND HELPFUL TIPS

Wastewater Updates

SB 64 REPORT REMINDERS

- Annual progress reports are due no later than Nov. 1 – however, that is the absolute deadline. Please try to submit the reports starting in September.
  - Data submitted on progress reports are based on the state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- Please reach out with progress report or general SB 64 questions ahead of the due date to ensure proper reporting.

ANNUAL REUSE REPORT REMINDERS

- Annual Reuse Reports are required by Rule 62-610.870, F.A.C., and **must be submitted through the DEP Business Portal on or by Jan. 1 each year.**
- The permittee will receive an email with an Oculus link to the supporting documentation when their report is approved by DEP.
- Ensure that submissions are made using the most up-to-date DEP Form 62-610.300(3)(a)2.
- Submit reports electronically through the DEP Business Portal and to the appropriate water management district.
- Do not send physical copies to DEP by U.S. mail.
- **Thank you for timely submissions this past year!**

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER FORMS

- Domestic Wastewater Forms:
  - Instructions include an email link to each district and delegated local program office.
  - Instructions also cover Professional Engineer signing and sealing of documents.
  - Fill out the form online, sign and save it, and submit it electronically to the appropriate permitting office.

HELPFUL WEBPAGES

- **OCULUS:** https://DEPEDMS.DEP.State.FL.US/Oculus/servlet/search.
- **DEP Business Portal:** https://www.FLDEPPortal.com/DepPortal/go/home.
- **Helpful tips for completing discharge monitoring reports (DMRs):** https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/documents/helpful-tips-completing-dmrs.
- **EzDMR:** https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/content/ezdmr.
- **Storm Preparedness Guide:** https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water/documents/storm-prration-guidance-and-checklist-wastewater-facilities.
- **Spill Reporting:** https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/content/emergency-response.
- **Public Notice of Pollution:** https://FloridaDEP.gov/pollutionnotice.

QUESTIONS?

Wastewater Updates

THANK YOU

Wastewater Management Program
Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:
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