

**Sewage Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 3, 2025**

VOTING SEWAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEMBERS PRESENT

Adam Browning, Chair, Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (POWRA)
Roger Lehmann, Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers, Alternate
Duane Mowery, Vice Chair, Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA)
William Rehkop, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Joseph Valentine, Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA)
Genevie Kostick, County Departments of Health and Health Agencies, Alternate
Karen Atkinson, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Alternate
Brian Chalfant, Governor's Policy Office, Alternate
Patrick Drohan, Pennsylvania State University
Robert Bressler, Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Laurel Mueller, Pennsylvania Builders Association

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Members of the public were present but not identified.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT
(CENTRAL OFFICE ONLY)**

Tomisa Kiskadden, Environmental Group Manager, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Charles Klinger, Water Program Specialist, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Annamaria De Sanctis, Environmental Engineer, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Richard Wright, Environmental Program Manager, DMF, BCW
Adam Duh, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel
Laura Campbell, Executive Policy Specialist, Policy Office

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Adam Browning at 9:06 A.M. The meeting was conducted both in-person and on-line. No members of the public attended the meeting at the Boyertown location. There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Discussion began on the draft regulations beginning with 72.35, Correction of malfunctioning onlot sewage systems. Discussion picked up where the prior ad hoc committee meeting left off. Working to come to a conclusion on what should define a malfunction. 72.35(a)(1, 2, 3, and 6) are not in question. Questions surround 72.35(a)(4, 5, and 7).
- Joe Valentine – Is it intended that all definitions of a malfunction, including having a cesspool in contact with the seasonal high water table, this would be a violation of the Act and be enforceable for an SEO to correct? Then 72.36 are ways that this could be addressed? – Tomisa confirmed this is correct.
- 72.35 conversation ended with the decision for a few SAC members to continue with an ad hoc committee to develop proposed language for 72.35(a)(5 and 7). Members proposed to eliminate 72.35(a)(4) as it seems to be encompassed by 72.35(a)(1-3).
- Discussion on 72.36, Permit variance from the standards for onlot sewage systems, adding a (b)(3) to allow for the continued use of a cesspool/seepage pit if timed dosed or if providing advanced treatment and or disinfection. Laurel will work on language for proposed (b)(3).
- Discussion on 72.36(b) – Discussion on adding to 72.36(b)(1) to allow length to width ratio adjustments to shallow limiting zone systems. Laurel discussed that slope is not currently able to be addressed as a permit variance. Joe Valentine proposed variances for a 17” esm (Delaware and others allow this) and these regulations eliminated the at-grade as currently exists. Flat top, sloping at-grades to continue to be allowed for repairs with a 20” limiting zone based on percolation testing. An ad hoc will be convened for 72.36(b).
- Tomisa indicated that if additional items are proposed to be added to 72.36(b) DEP will consider those variances, but boundaries are needed to ensure standards will continue to be met.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SAC REQUESTED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Browning called for any new business from the committee. Upcoming ad hoc meetings and additional SAC meetings: Ad hoc 11.6 (soils, fill, shallow LZ isolation distances), 11.12 (if needed). SAC meeting on 11.14.2025. Discussed Dr. Tyler joining the group on the upcoming call and proposed topics to discuss with Tyler.

ADJOURNMENT

SAC meeting was adjourned at 12:01 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is November 14, 2025. Notice of the meeting and meeting materials will be on the SAC webpage.