

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



Happy Spring! I'm taking the blade and chains off the tractor today, getting the Mini Cooper back on the road, and putting the Adirondack chairs out on the dock (maybe). How about you?

New System Rules. The Board has voted to engage Ardurra, our system engineers, to prepare a new set of Residential System Requirements (RSRs). Why are we doing this? Because we're succumbing to bureaucracy! For years and years, we've operated under our own homebrewed set of rules for the installation and operation of the District's collection system. That's the septic tanks, pumps, lateral and main sewer lines, and all the component parts. We've periodically updated our RSRs to reflect a growing list of requirements from the Idaho Department of Environment Quality (DEQ). Three things have changed. (1) In March 2022, DEQ adopted revised "Wastewater Rules" (IDAPA 58.01.16) with provisions that are not clearly set out in our current RSRs. (2) DEQ needs to approve our RSRs. And (3), DEQ wants to approve all septic installations unless we have a compliant set of rules, *and* the department feels we can enforce them.

If we don't adopt DEQ approved rules, then homeowners will be required to submit plans for new construction or system changes (a new bedroom for example) to DEQ *before* construction. Homeowners would need to hire their own engineer to deal with DEQ. Your board felt the cost and delays of going through DEQ would be intolerable to our members. So, we elected to hire our engineering firm to give us a new set of rules and have them approved by DEQ. It's going to cost \$7,200, but we'll then be able to continue approving changes to our collection system.

New Pump Controls. At the March meeting, the Board adopted an amendment to our Operating Rules that will require homeowners to install an up-to-date pump control unit when there is a change in property ownership. The newer units are now required by DEQ and they provide an alarm when the septic pump fails. It's our intention to bring all the control units up to standard as soon as possible.



New Pump Control

Landscaping Over the Lateral Line. We are aware that homeowners often put landscaping features – bushes and trees – over the District's easement for the lateral sewer line. It's not recommended but it is what it is. The Board amended our Operating Rules to provide that in the event the District needs to access the line, and in the process destroy the landscaping features, the homeowner and not the District is responsible for replacement.

Website. A reminder that the District's rules and other information is available on our website: bottlebaydistrict.org. There's a link to sit-in on our Zoom Board meeting on April 20th at 4pm.

Bill Berg, District President
billb@bbsewer.org