

Sec. 8-3147. Groundwater recharge area protection.

(a) *Intent.* This section is intended to protect groundwater quality by restricting land uses that generate, use, or store pollutants within groundwater recharge areas and by establishing minimum sizes for lots within groundwater recharge areas that are served by on-site sewage management systems.

(b) *Groundwater recharge area assessment.* Prior to the issuance of a building permit or a demolition permit, the zoning administrator shall assess whether the proposed activity is located within a groundwater recharge area as identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in Hydrologic Atlas 18, 1989 edition. All lands identified as groundwater recharge areas shall be subject to the development standards in this section.

(c) *Development standards.* Areas of high, medium and low pollution susceptibility are identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on the Pollution Susceptibility Map in Hydrologic Atlas 20, 1992 edition. Hydrologic Atlas 20 shall be used to determine the applicability of the following development standards within groundwater recharge areas:

- (1) *Secondary containment for new aboveground storage tanks.* Within all pollution susceptibility areas, new aboveground chemical or petroleum storage tanks having a minimum volume of 660 gallons shall have secondary containment for 110 percent of the volume of such tanks or 110 percent of the volume of the largest tank in a cluster of tanks. This provision shall not apply to farm fuel tanks.
- (2) *Liners for new agricultural waste impoundment sites.* All new agricultural waste impoundment sites shall be lined if they are within:
 - a. A high pollution susceptibility area;
 - b. A medium pollution susceptibility area and exceed 15 acre-feet in size; or
 - c. A low pollution susceptibility area and exceed 50 acre-feet in size.

As a minimum, the liner shall be constructed of a compacted clay having a thickness of one foot and a vertical hydraulic conductivity of less than 5×10^{-7} cm/sec or other criteria established by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Applications for a building permit for a new agricultural waste impoundment site that requires a liner under the provisions of this subsection shall include a site plan that shows the location and design of the liner.

- (3) *Minimum lot sizes for septic tanks.*
 - a. New lots served by septic tank/drainfield systems shall meet the following minimum sizes as identified on table MT-1 of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems

(DHR Table MT-1):

1. One hundred fifty percent of the subdivision minimum lot size of DHR Table MT-1 if within a high pollution susceptibility area;
2. One hundred twenty-five percent of the subdivision minimum lot size of DHR Table MT-1 if within a medium pollution susceptibility area; and
3. One hundred ten percent of the subdivision minimum lot size of DHR Table MT-1 if within a low pollution susceptibility area.

b. New mobile home parks served by septic tank/drainfield systems shall have lots or spaces having the following minimum sizes as identified on table MT-2 of the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (DHR Table MT-2):

1. One hundred fifty percent of the subdivision minimum lot or space size of DHR Table MT-2 if within a high pollution susceptibility area;
2. One hundred twenty-five percent of the subdivision minimum lot or space size of DHR Table MT-2 if within a medium pollution susceptibility area;
3. One hundred ten percent of the subdivision minimum lot or space size of DHR Table MT-2 if within a low pollution susceptibility area;

c. No construction may proceed on any building or mobile home to be served by a septic tank unless the Chatham County Health Department first approves the proposed septic tank installation as meeting the standards and minimum lot size requirements of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.

(4) *Impervious surfaces for hazardous materials handling operations.* Within all pollution susceptibility areas, new facilities that handle hazardous constituents in amounts of 10,000 pounds or more on any one day shall perform their operations on impervious surfaces and in conformance with any applicable federal spill prevention requirements and the City of Savannah fire prevention code requirements. This provision shall not apply to underground storage tanks. Applications for a building permit for hazardous materials handling operations as defined in this subsection shall include a site plan that shows the location and design of any required spill and leak collection systems.

- (5) *Permanent stormwater infiltration basins prohibited in areas of high pollution susceptibility.* Permanent stormwater infiltration basins shall not be constructed in areas having high pollution susceptibility.