

Florida Department of Health

Enhanced Nitrogen Reducing (ENR)-
Onsite Sewage & Disposal Treatment
Systems (OSTDS)

The logo is a circular graphic on the left side of the slide. It depicts a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is filled with dark, silhouetted clouds. The text 'Florida HEALTH' is overlaid on the bottom half of the circle.

Florida
HEALTH

Onsite Sewage Program-ENR OSTDS

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[Florida Department of Health in Hernando \(floridahealth.gov\)](http://floridahealth.gov)

Onsite Sewage Program-ENR OSTDS

Background

- Water leaving septic tanks major contributor of nitrogen pollution
- Protecting Florida Springs
 - Florida Springs & Aquifer Protection Act 2016
 - Weeki Wachee Springs & Aripeka
- DEP water quality restoration plans
 - Basin Management Action Plans(BMAPs)
 - Initially, sensitive areas designated as Priority Focus Areas (PFAs) within the BMAPs
 - Greatest threat from septic systems near impacted springs
 - Highly permeable sandy soil
- Effective for Hernando County January 2019

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REDUCE NITROGEN by 65%



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Water Quality – Top Priority for Florida

- Red Tide
- Blue Green Algae
- Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)
- Drinking Water
- Recreational
- Ecological
- Tourism
- Economy

Onsite Sewage Program-ENR OSTDS

Department of Health(DOH)- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)Transfer

- Onsite Sewage Program transferred to DEP July 1st 2021
- 5 year Interagency Agreement between DOH and DEP
- Existing systems mandatory upgrade???

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Prior to HB1379

- Installing nitrogen reduction systems in Priority Focus Areas (PFAs) only within the BMAPs
 - Not the entire BMAP!!!
 - Lots LESS THAN ONE ACRE (43560sqft)
 - Connect to available sewer or
 - Install conventional non-nitrogen reducing OSTDS if utility identified septic to sewer project within 5 years
- Three nitrogen reducing options:
 - Inground Nitrogen Reduction Biofilter (INRB)
 - NSF 245 Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU)
 - Performance Based Treatment System (PBTS)

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HB1379 –

- Amends Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act 2016 (section 373.811, F.S) and section 403.067, F.S.
- Effective July 1st 2023
- New systems
 - Repairs/Modifications not required to install ENR OSTDS YET!! in Weeki Wachee BMAP
 - Repairs in Banana River Lagoon, Central Indian River Lagoon, North Indian River Lagoon, Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan upgrade by July 1st 2030
- LOTS ONE ACRE (43,560sqft) OR LESS!!!!
- Required in the ENTIRE BMAP not only the PFA!!
- Online DEP map tool link:
 - [BMAPs and Alternative Restoration Plans - New and Existing OSTDS Requirements \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
- Sewer not available
 - No provision to allow conventional systems to be installed when sewer is available in less than 5 years



Onsite Sewage Program – ENR OSTDS

Application Denials

- No Variance under 381.0065(4)(h) F.S
- File Petition with 21 days for Administrative Hearing
- Extension of time to file
- Mediation not available
- File Notice of Appeal within 30 days for judicial review

Onsite Sewage Program-ENR OSTDS

The Good and Bad

!!! One ACRE=43,560sqft !!!

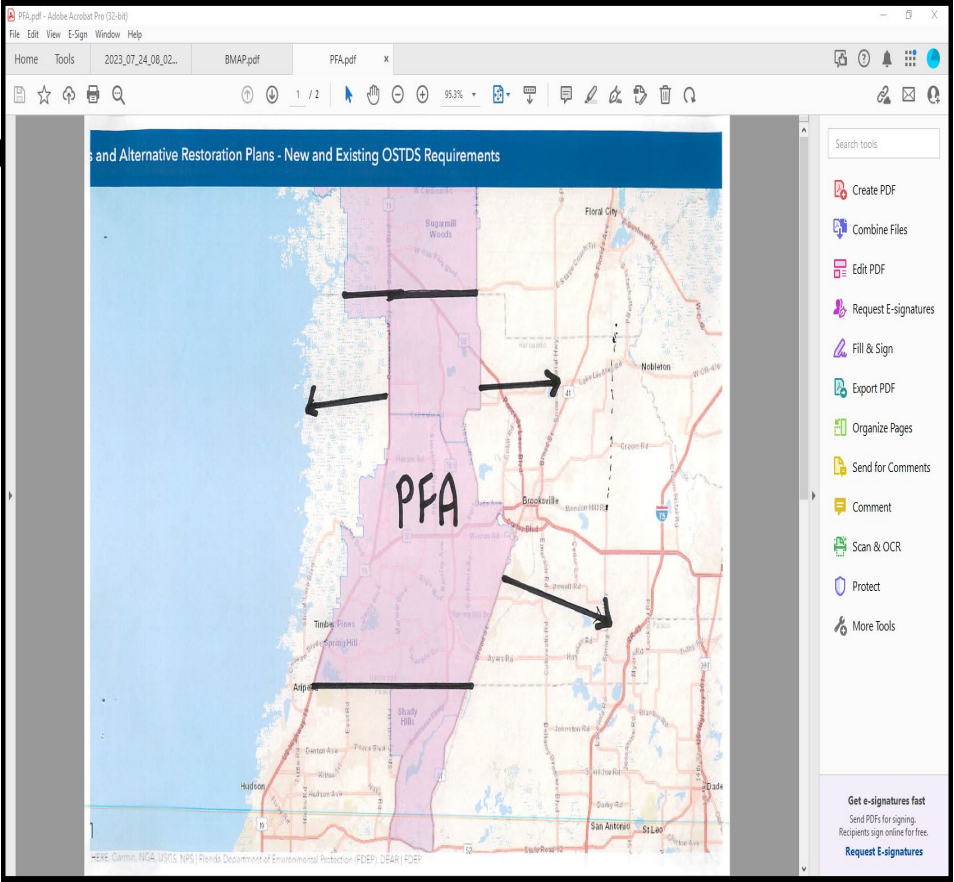
BEFORE HB1379

- One Acre = 43,560sqft = Good
- 43,559sqft or less(less than one acre) = Bad
- only portion of the BMAP (PFA)
- Install non ENR septic system if sewer available within 5 years

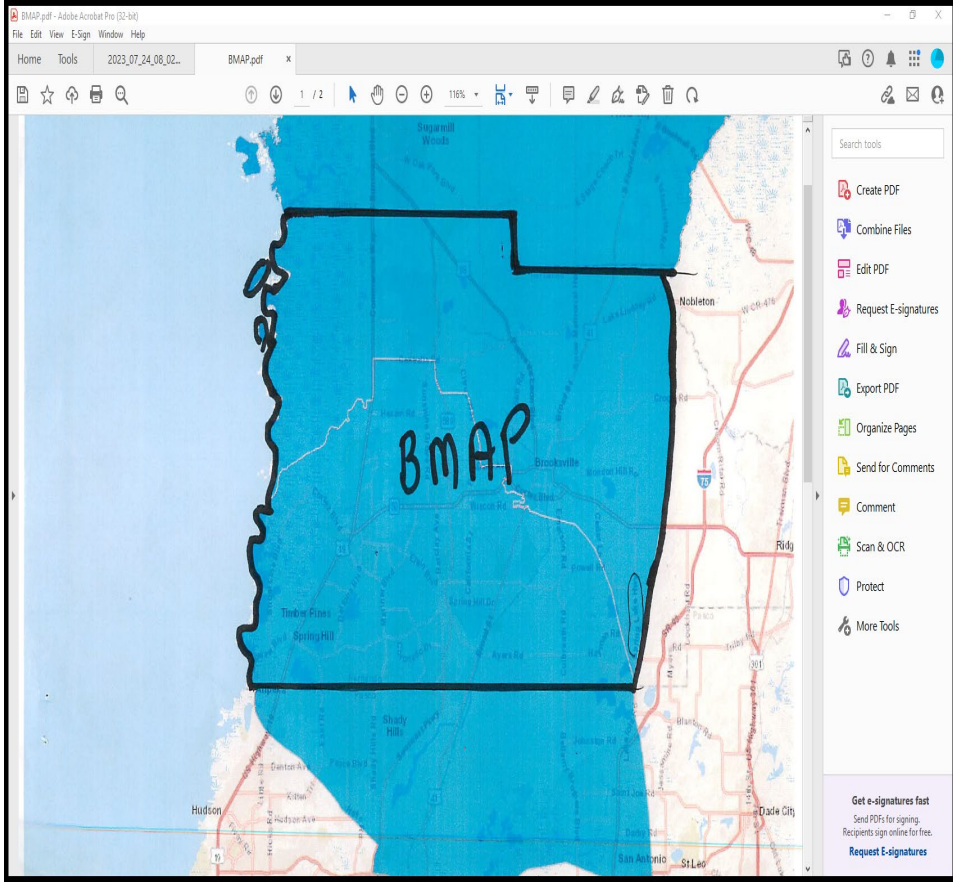
Effective July 1st 2023

- One acre = 43,560sqft = Bad
- 43,561sqft or greater (more than one Acre) = Good
- ALL BMAP
- Install ENR OSTDS if sewer available within 5 years

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PFA vs
BMAP



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Nitrogen Reducing Systems: Three Options

1. NSF 245 ATU
 - Requires DOH Biennial Operating Permit
 - Maintenance Entity (ME)
 - FL licensed septic contractor
 - Approved training from Product ATU manufacturer
 - Electronic system-aerator/recirculation
 - [2023_0606 ME by Product.pdf \(floridadep.gov\)](#)
 - Maintenance Contract with ME-Renewed initially for 2 years then yearly
 - Audio and visual alarm
 - ME inspections twice per year-provided to DOH
 - Annual DOH inspection

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Operating Permits
– ME QR Code to
search by County
or by product



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2. INRB

- Standard Septic tank
- Drainfield –
 - 12” or more denitrification layer (mulch)
 - 18 “ or more nitrification sand layer
 - Drainfield
- Must be recorded on the property deed with Clerk of Court
- Requires two inspections prior to approval

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3. Performance Based Treatment System

- Similar to all aspects of NSF 245 ATU but
- Engineer Designed
- Reduced bacterial load
- More reduction of setbacks
- Monitoring and sampling required
- Recorded on Property Deed

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Operating permits

- ME to give 30day notice to DOH and owner prior to discontinuing service
- Owner to contract with new ME within 30days of service termination and provide copy of contract to DOH
- MA must disclose that owner occupier of a single family residence can maintain their own ME system after approved training—all permitting requirements apply
 - [ATU Homeowner – My FOWA](#)
 - Product Manufacturer

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Certificate of Occupancy

- Hold letters sent by DOH to Building Dept for issues which are out of compliance
- DOH will send release letter to Building Dept to release C.O. when final system approval is granted

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Existing Systems/Repairs

- Septic Incentive Upgrade Program
 - Voluntary
 - Must be in the PFA/BMAP
 - Grant \$7500
 - List of Approve contractors
 - Administered by Hernando County Utilities Department on behalf of DEP
 - Subcontracted to Government Services Group (GSG)
 - [Septic Upgrade Incentive Program | Hernando County, FL](#)

Onsite Sewage program-ENR OSTDS

- DEP website
 - [Onsite Sewage Forms and Publications | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
 - 381,386, 489 FS
 - 62-6 FAC
 - Forms
 - Operating Permits
 - Licensed Contractors
 - Nitrogen Reduction



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NSF 245 ATU
and Drainfield



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NSF 245 ATU
Alarm



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NSF 245 ATU



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1st Stage INRB



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2nd Stage INRB



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QR for Registered
Septic Contractors



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Public database:
www.ebridge.com
Username: public
Password: public



Onsite Sewage System-ENR OSTDS Contact Information



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