



Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division

HERSCHLER BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Quality Division Professional Staff

FROM: William L. Garland *wlg*

DATE: April 2, 1985 13.8.1

SUBJECT: Reclamation of Abandoned Wastewater Treatment or Disposal Facilities

The Water Quality Division shall require the following whenever a wastewater treatment facility is abandoned:

1. Ponds, lagoons, etc shall be drained to facilitate drying of remaining sludges or, if the wastewater is not of a quality which can be discharged, they should be allowed to dry-out naturally (contact the NPDES section for restrictions on discharges);
2. Dried sludges shall be moved to a disposal site authorized by the Solid Waste Division or, if the owner wishes to leave the sludge in-place, the owner must submit the documentation necessary for the Groundwater Section to determine if a groundwater pollution problem could result;
3. Obvious health problems or hazardous conditions shall be eliminated. For example, manholes, wet wells, and other deep holes or pits shall be backfilled, chemical stores shall be removed from the site and properly disposed, etc.
4. Conditions which could cause future environmental problems shall be corrected. For example, non-vegetated areas which would be subject to water or wind erosion shall be re-seeded.

Normally, abandonment of an existing facility will be concurrent with construction of a new replacement facility. In such cases, the requirements for reclamation of the abandoned site should be part of the submission for the permit to construct the new facility. A permit to construct the new facility should not be issued unless the plans for reclamation of the abandoned site are satisfactory.

In cases where abandonment is not associated with construction of a new site the matter should be referred to the Engineering Supervisor (Jake Strohman) along with your recommendations for reclamation and your assessment of the environmental problems associated with abandonment of the facility. The Engineering Supervisor shall then be responsible for taking the steps necessary to insure that the site is properly reclaimed.