



On-Site Wastewater Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting November 25, 2024 | 1:00 p.m.

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In-person:

Board of Registration for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors

605 11th Ave SE, Suite 201

Olympia, WA 98501

Committee:

Mike Harney, PE

Ric Wilkerson, Designer

Roger Parker, Inspector, DOH Representative

Bob Suggs, Designer

Jesse Cox, Inspector

Robert Goodman, Designer

Support staff:

Ken Fuller, PE, Director

Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director

Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead

Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager

Elizabeth Lagerberg, AAG

Discussion topics

- WOSSA update
- Update of DOH/WOSSA Regulator training
- EXAM Complaint
- EXAM New forms, adding design calculation items to each exam.
- Tank Fall protection safety device proposal from the industry and next steps forward

Hello,

I took the Onsite Wastewater exam in September 2024 and failed the exam. It appears that the minimum required score (i.e. cut score) for passing is 82/100, but I have been informed that the standard is at-minimum 80/100. Additionally, exam proctors encouraged examinees to write any questions/concerns regarding specific questions in the exam on the comments sheet in case they would need to be reviewed or removed from scoring. I noted several typos and questions that could not be answered correctly because the multiple-choice options were actual answers (ex. questions' multiple-choice options were more questions; you cannot answer questions with questions). Because of this, I have a few questions regarding the exam:


1. Were any questions removed post-exam and not considered as part of the final scoring?
2. How was the 82/100 cut score determined for the September 2024 exam?

I also took the exam in March 2024 and the minimum score for passing was 79/100. The exam questions in March 2024 were nearly identical to the questions in September 2024 give or take 4-5 questions and both exams were listed as Exam B, yet the minimum passing score is different for the September 2024 exam. Additionally, previous exams have had much lower minimum required passing scores: in particular, my supervisor and coworker took the exam in 2019 and only needed 69/100 to pass the exam.

It's concerning to see such a variance in scoring requirements and such low pass percentages over these last few years (ex. March 2024, 14% and September 2024, 31%). In review of the documents provided by your board, the percent pass rate for the Onsite Wastewater exam appears to decrease as time goes on, especially for inspectors. Many Local Health Jurisdictions depend on employees passing this exam to ensure that systems can be installed in our region. I've had coworkers fail the exam by 1 point and are forced out of their positions at work. This is a growing frustration considering that Inspectors are expected to take the exam within 1 year of working in Onsite Septic and pass under 2 years while working under another's license (RCW 70A.105.110), yet the same standard is not set for Designers (4 years). Inspectors are required take the same exam as the Designers, yet they are held to a higher standard.

I will be writing a formal letter regarding these concerns and will be requesting a reevaluation of the exam scores for myself as well as a coworker.

Thank you for answering my questions and taking the time to consider this email.


Environmental Health Specialist I
& Pollution Prevention Specialist

1038 W Ivy Ave (Suite #1)

Moses Lake, WA 98837


[REDACTED]

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



Always working for a safer and healthier Grant County.

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