



COPY

POLK COUNTY
Office of Emergency Management
602 East Church St Suite 165
Livingston, Texas 77351
936-328-7277

To: John P. Thompson, Polk County Judge & County Commissioners

From: Larry Shine, EMC

Re: Permission to Raise Permit Rates

Date: March 3, 2009

The Polk County Permitting Department under the auspices of Office of Emergency Management issues permits for all septic systems in the unincorporated areas of Polk County and the City of Livingston. The fee of \$160 was charged in 1993 when the permits process was initiated. There have been no increases of the fees in 16 years.

An analysis was made of the OSSF fees for counties within the DETCOG region, and Polk County was found to be among the lowest of all twelve counties. The average residential permit rate for the other twelve counties is \$218.75, and the average rate of the commercial permits is \$350.00.

State law requires the quarterly inspection of all aerobic systems which have been installed in the county. There have been no fees to date to defray the labor cost of the enormous paperwork generated by the inspection reports. The permit office currently regulates over 1100 aerobic systems.

- Recommendation: 1.) Raise Residential OSSF installation Permit fees from \$160 to \$260
- 2.) Raise Commercial OSSF installation Permit fees from \$160 to \$310
- 3.) Establish an inspection service fee of \$5 per inspection
- 4.) Raise modification fees from \$60 to \$100

It is recommended that these rates be raised for any new installation on or after April 1, 2009.

IMPACT: Several local installers were contacted concerning the potential impact of fee increases. The general consensus was it was expected, but that the fee increase would be passed on to their customers.

Please see the attached county fee comparison and the comparison of Polk County's current permit rates and the potential rates for the future.

OSSF PERMIT FEE INCREASE

PERMITS	CURRENT FEE	NEW FEE
Residential (166 sold in 2008)	\$160.00	\$260.00
Commercial (6 sold in 2008)	\$160.00	\$310.00
Totals	\$27,520	\$45,020

REPAIR PERMIT FEE INCREASE

PERMIT	CURRENT FEE	NEW FEE
Residential (17 sold in 2008)	\$60.00	\$100.00
Totals	\$1,020.00	\$1,700.00

INSPECTION FEE INCREASE

INSPECTIONS	CURRENT FEE	NEW FEE
Approx. 3,000 in 2008	\$0.00	\$5.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$15,000

PROFIT

PERMITS/INSPECTIONS	CURRENT FEES	NEW FEES
Residential (166 sold in 2008)	\$26,560	\$43,160
Commercial (6 sold in 2008)	\$960	\$1860
Repair (17 sold in 2008)	\$1020	\$1700
Inspections (approx. 3,000 in 2008)	\$0	\$15,000
Totals	\$28, 540	\$61,720

DETCOG REGION OSSF FEE

COUNTY	RESIDENTIAL FEE	COMMERCIAL FEE
Angelina	\$310	\$410
Houston	\$285	\$410
Nacogdoches	\$250	\$400
Jasper	\$210	\$410
Newton	\$110	\$110
Polk	\$160	\$160
Sabine	\$210	\$410
San Augustine	\$210	\$410
San Jacinto	\$210	\$410
Shelby	\$210	\$410
Trinity	\$250	\$250
Tyler	\$210	\$410
Average Fee For All Counties	\$218.75	\$350.00