



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**OFFICE of SHELLFISH and WATER PROTECTION**

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October 25, 2011

Ngozi T. Oleru., Ph.D., Director  
Environmental Health Services Division  
Public Health Seattle and King County  
401 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Subject: On-site Project Review for Cascadia Center

Dear Ngozi Oleru,

Thank you for discussing with me the project review for wastewater treatment at the new Cascadia Center for Sustainable Design and Construction in Seattle. I'm writing primarily to confirm the agreement we've reached in our discussions. First, I want to provide some context with the background of the project.

**Background**

The proposal submitted on behalf of the Bullitt Foundation for the Cascadia Center is for innovative, non-conforming wastewater treatment to be built at the new midrise commercial office building on a 0.23 acre parcel at 1501 E Madison Street in Seattle.

At the early discussion stages of the proposal, it was unclear whether the wastewater treatment component qualified as a reclaimed water, on-site sewage system, or greywater treatment project. Therefore, due to possible lack of authority and expertise at the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, also known as Public Health - Seattle and King County (PHSKC) and the potential for multiple waivers from current regulations, PHSKC asked the Department of Health (DOH) to review the wastewater treatment component.

Based on the design engineer's actual initial design submittal to the DOH Large On-site Sewage System Program, the building's greywater will be treated and disposed of on the building's property year-round, rather than by connection to the local wastewater utility.

Composting toilets will be used. Blackwater may occasionally be discharged to the greywater lines. Since average daily discharge is estimated at about 350 gallons per day, we'll review the proposal as an on-site sewage system project and not as a large on-site sewage system, reclaimed water, or greywater project. WAC 246-272A-0020 in the small on-site sewage system rule, delegates enforcement of rule provisions to local health jurisdictions, including PHSKC. However, we're willing to undertake the review at your request per RCW 43.70.130(7) that states that the "secretary of health shall have the same authority as local health officers, except that the secretary shall not exercise such authority unless the local health officer fails or is unable to do so, or when in an emergency the safety of the public health demands it, or by agreement with the local health officer or local board of health."

### **Agreement - Roles and Responsibilities**

DOH and PHSKC agree, per RCW 43.70.130(7), that DOH will review the on-site sewage system project submittals for the Cascadia Center for Sustainable Design and Construction using the requirements of Chapter 246-272A WAC and King County Board of Health Rule and Regulation 11-01, Code of the King County Board of Health Title 13, on-site sewage regulations and Code of the King County Board of Health Title 2, Chapter 2.18, review fees for project review.

Specifically:

1. A professional engineer in the DOH Wastewater Management Section, Craig Riley, will be in charge of the project review. As part of the project review process, evaluation and approval of any waiver requests will be handled by DOH, and will not be subject to PHSKC's waiver process.
2. The PHSKC Plumbing Program will handle review of fixtures and piping design within the building. DOH will be consulted in any wastewater treatment component design in the building, to ensure adequate treatment.
3. DOH will copy PHSKC on all project correspondence it issues, and consult PHSKC as necessary, including prior to issuing project approval. In the event that DOH approves the project, DOH will provide a copy of the complete project file to PHSKC.
4. DOH may deny project approval to the applicant if project submittals do not meet requirements of Chapter 246-272A WAC or King County Board of Health Rule and Regulation 11-01, Code of the King County Board of Health Title 13.

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5. Once the construction documents have been reviewed, all project submittals meet standards, and fees are paid, if appropriate, DOH will issue approval to the applicant and inform PHSKC. DOH will issue any necessary permits to the applicant, per the delegation under RCW 43.70.130.
6. Regulation of the wastewater treatment system (on-site sewage system) will be the responsibility of PHSKC after the treatment system is constructed and given final approval. The system owner will be required to direct any required operations reports, including monitoring results, to PHSKC for review or other action.

We're glad to assist you in the review of this innovative project. Thank you for the thought and consideration you've given this agreement.

Sincerely,

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Maryanne Guichard, Assistant Secretary, Division of Environmental Health



By: Jerrod Davis, P.E.  
Director, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection

SEATTLE-KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
David Fleming, Director and Health Officer



By: Ngozi Oleru, Ph.D.  
Director, Environmental Health Services Division

cc: Maryanne Guichard, DOH  
Craig Riley, DOH