



*Engineering*

*Wayne Goodwin | Commissioner of Insurance*

*Tim Bradley | Assistant State Fire Marshal*

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August 24, 2009

Dale Dawson  
Executive Director  
State Board of Examiners of Plumbing,  
Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors  
1109 Dresser Court  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dale,

Subsequent to the meeting between the office of State Fire Marshal, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors, I want to document the understanding between the three organizations regarding design, installation and testing.

To provide background, NC General Statute 143-215.1 and 130A-335, 336 require that sewer lines are required to be permitted by DENR. For sewers not tributary to subsurface disposal systems, 15A NCAC 02T .0303 (1) states that the discharge from a single building sewer by gravity means and approved by the local inspector is deemed permitted. When more than one building sewer connects before discharging to the sewer system, it will be referred to as a sewer collector for the purposes of this letter.

While plumbing systems, including building sewer and combination building sewers, is contained in the NC Plumbing Code, there are specific DENR rules that address sewer collectors. These rules can be different than the prescriptive requirements contained within the plumbing code.

Due to the scoping of the NC Plumbing Code, the DENR rules and the licensure guidelines of the contractors, representatives from all three organizations have agreed that the good design practice for the sewer collector would require the more stringent criteria between the plumbing code and the DENR rules.

In effect, when a building sewer line or multiple building sewer lines connect together (sewer collector) on the premises, a plumbing inspection for both the sewer and the sewer collector shall be performed by the local plumbing inspector using the plumbing code for both. However when DENR rules are more stringent for sewer collectors, the more stringent DENR rule would be used by the local plumbing inspector. In addition for sewer collectors where DENR rules apply, there should be plans and specifications prepared by the Professional Engineer that would reflect DENR rules / criteria. When there is a question to what is more stringent that cannot be answered by the designer or code official, OSFM or DENR should be contacted.

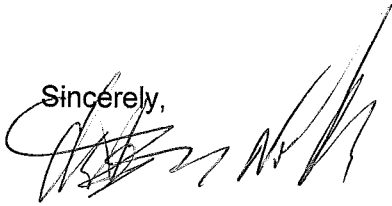
If there are any questions, please contact any of the agencies:

Office of State Fire Marshal – (919) 661-5880

DENR – (919) 733-6900

State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors –  
(919) 875-3612

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian M. Noles', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Christian M. Noles, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Office of State Fire Marshal

CMN/jnw

cc: Phil Edwards – Mecklenburg County  
Kim Colson - DENR