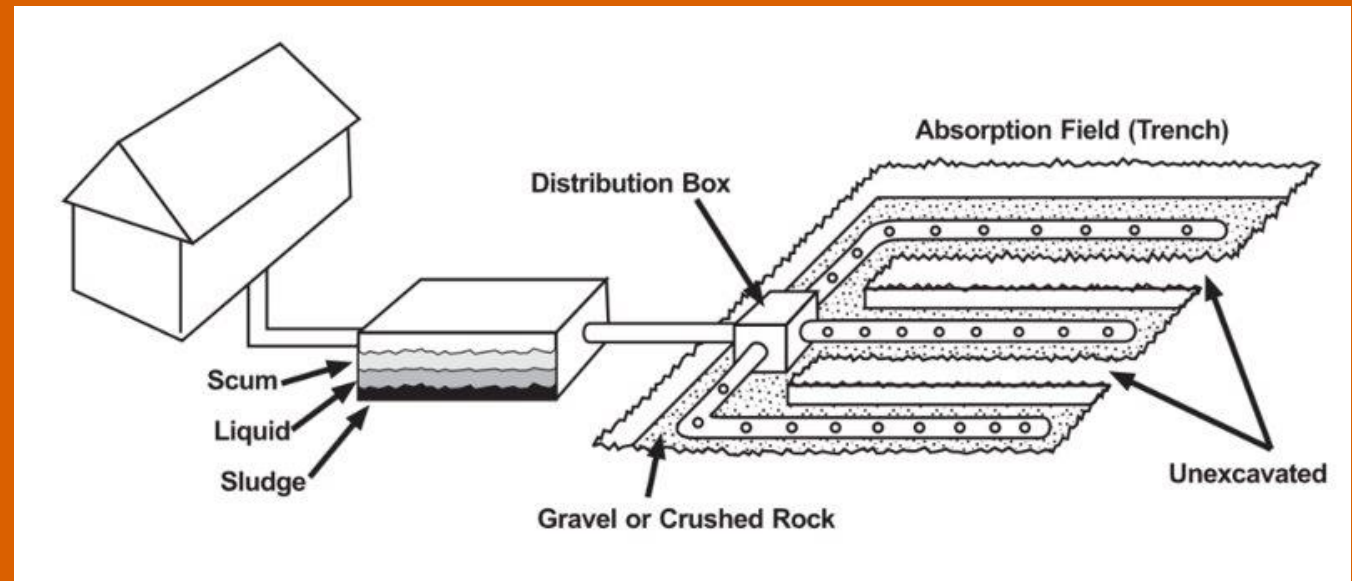


On-site Sewage System (OSS) 2024 Code Revisions

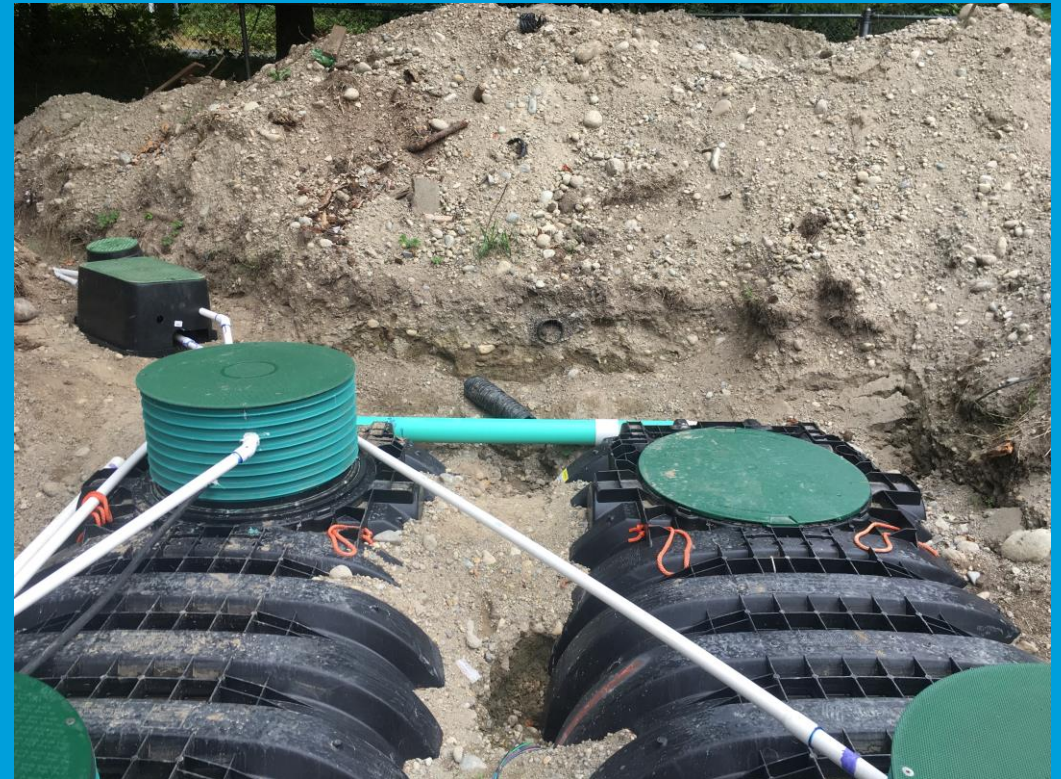
Meagan Jackson
Interim Assistant Division Director
Community Environmental Health Section
Environmental Health Services Division
Public Health – Seattle & King County

April 18, 2024

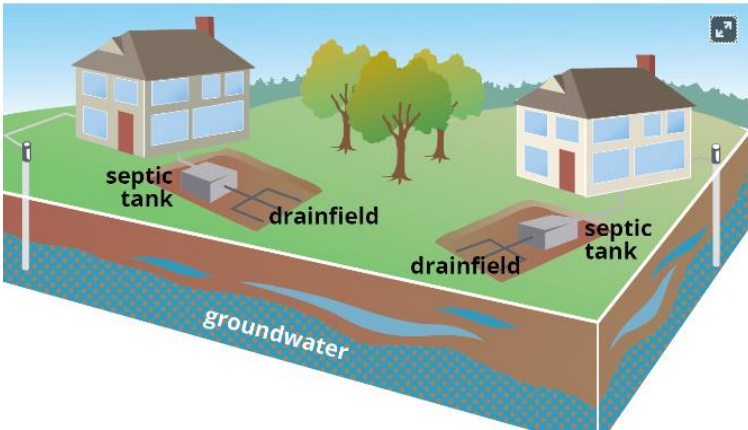


Agenda

1. Quick review: OSS in King County
2. Code revision process
3. Topics being considered for revisions

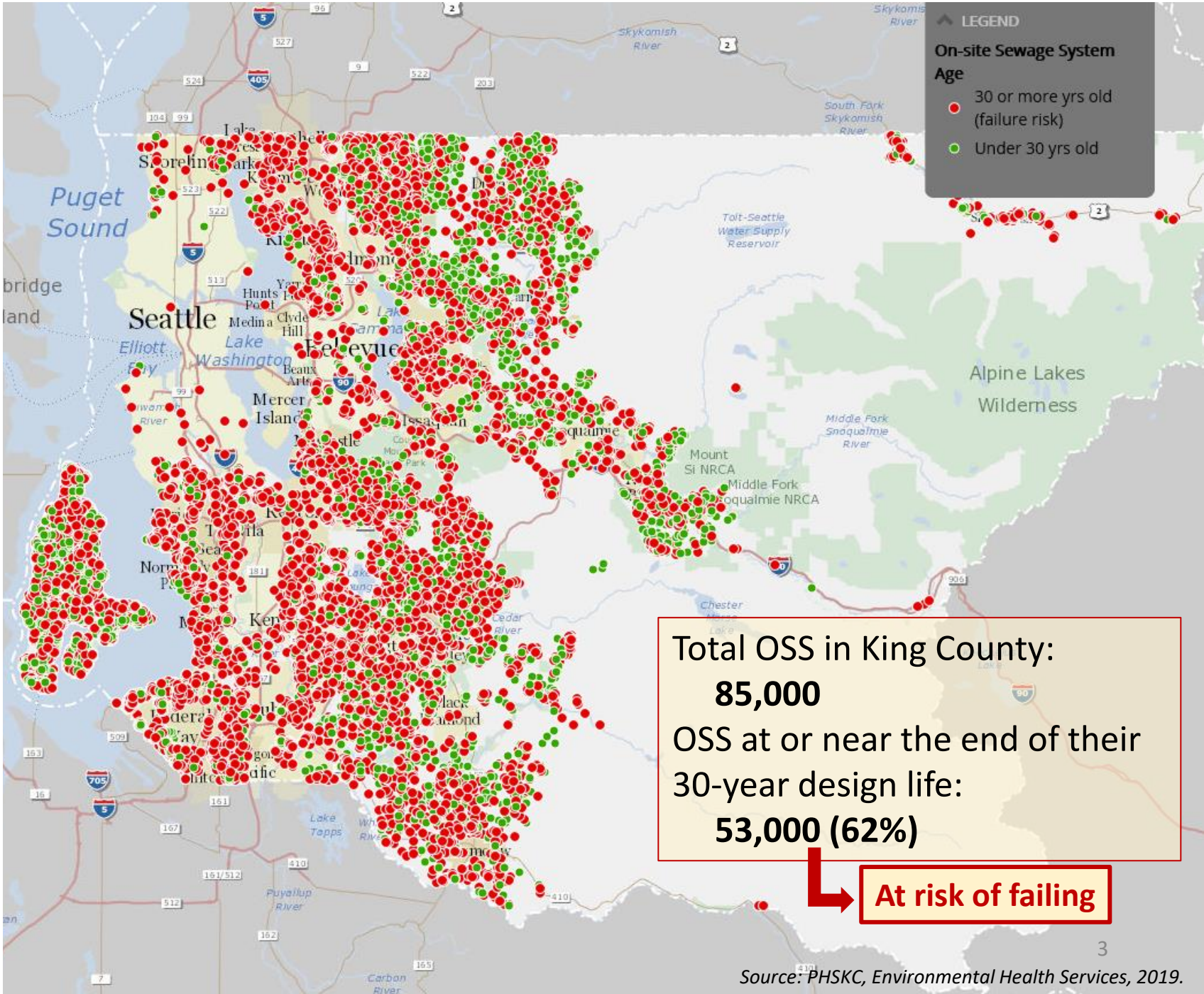


Functioning OSS protect people and the environment.

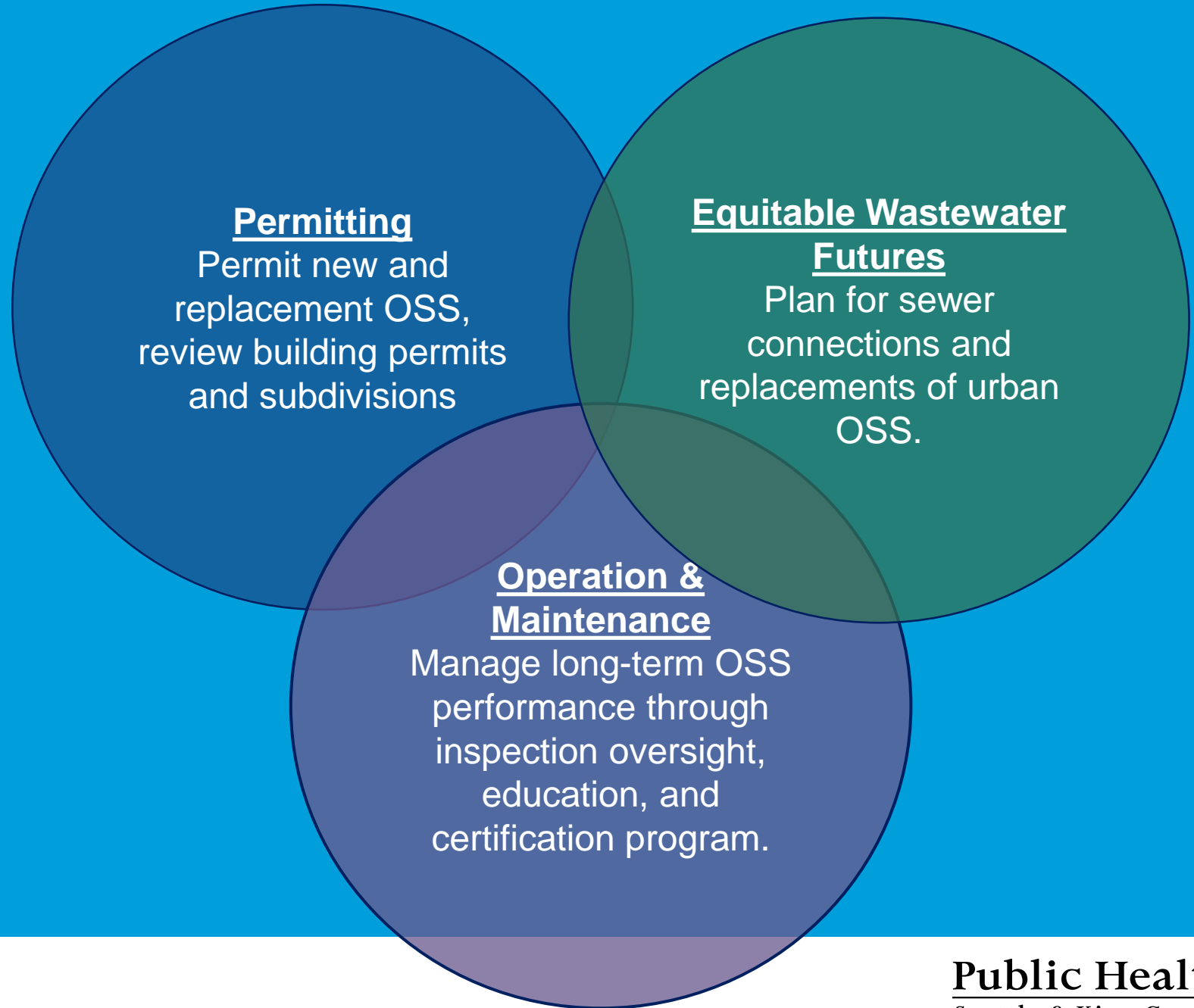


When OSS fail, they are a public health hazard. People can come into contact with sewage when it:

- Surfaces in yards
- Flows into streams, lakes, beaches
- Flows into stormwater catch basins
- Backs up into houses
- Contaminates drinking water wells



PHSKC's role is to permit and manage OSS across King County. We're also planning for the future.



Our goals are to prevent exposure to untreated sewage and protect water quality for recreation and shellfish harvesting.



Photo credit: Puyallup Tribe of Indians



OSS code revision process

WA BOH

- **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-272A**
- Adopted January 2024

KC BOH

- **Title 13, On-site Sewage System Code**, last updated 2007
- Often more restrictive due to urban settings
- Must be updated to reflect WAC changes by March 2025

KC BOH

- **Local Management Plan (LMP)**, last updated 2008
- State required plan to manage OSS
- Approved by BOH resolution

Opportunity to consider local changes beyond WAC minimum requirements

01

Advance equity in OSS infrastructure

02

Build on lessons learned

03

Remove unnecessary barriers and costs

04

Integrate with regional policies

Elements informing Public Health's recommendations (beyond WAC minimum requirements)



TECHNICAL AND
LEGAL REVIEW



EQUITY IMPACT
REVIEW



TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE



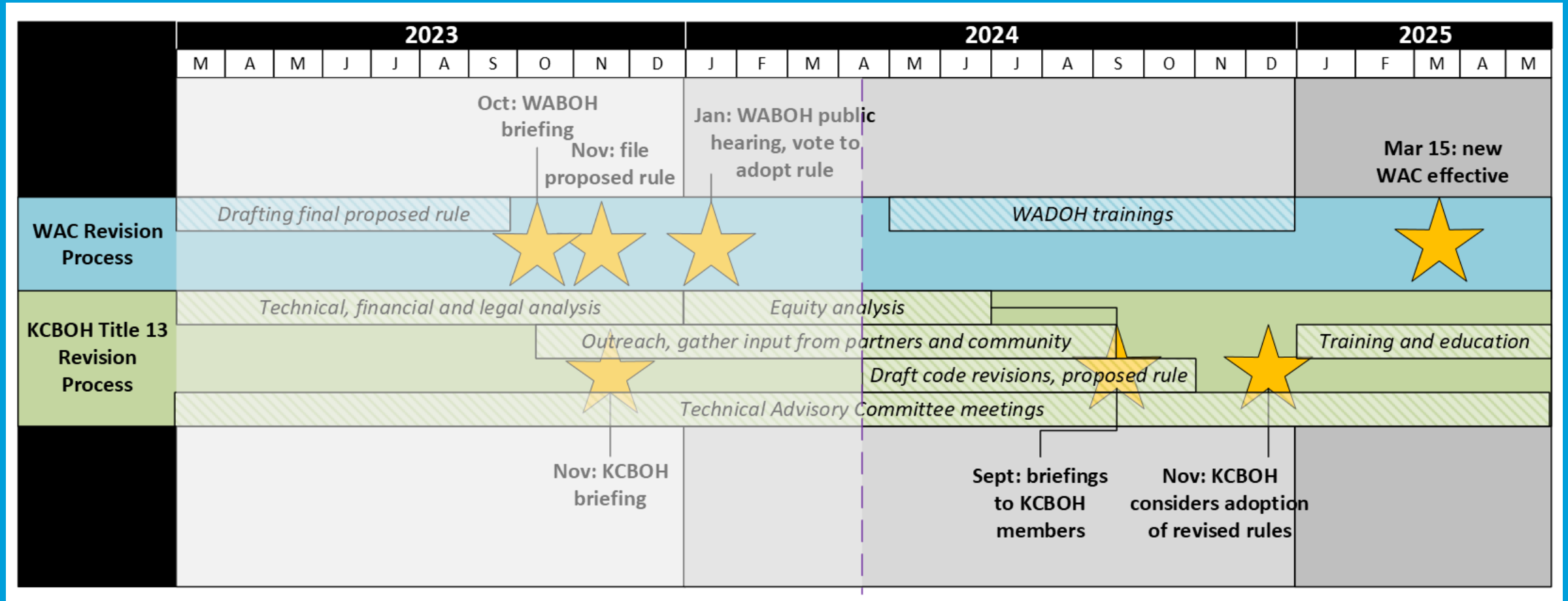
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH

May-July: Community outreach



- Website & public comment survey
- Language access for top 5 King County languages
- 15+ virtual and in-person meetings

Timeline

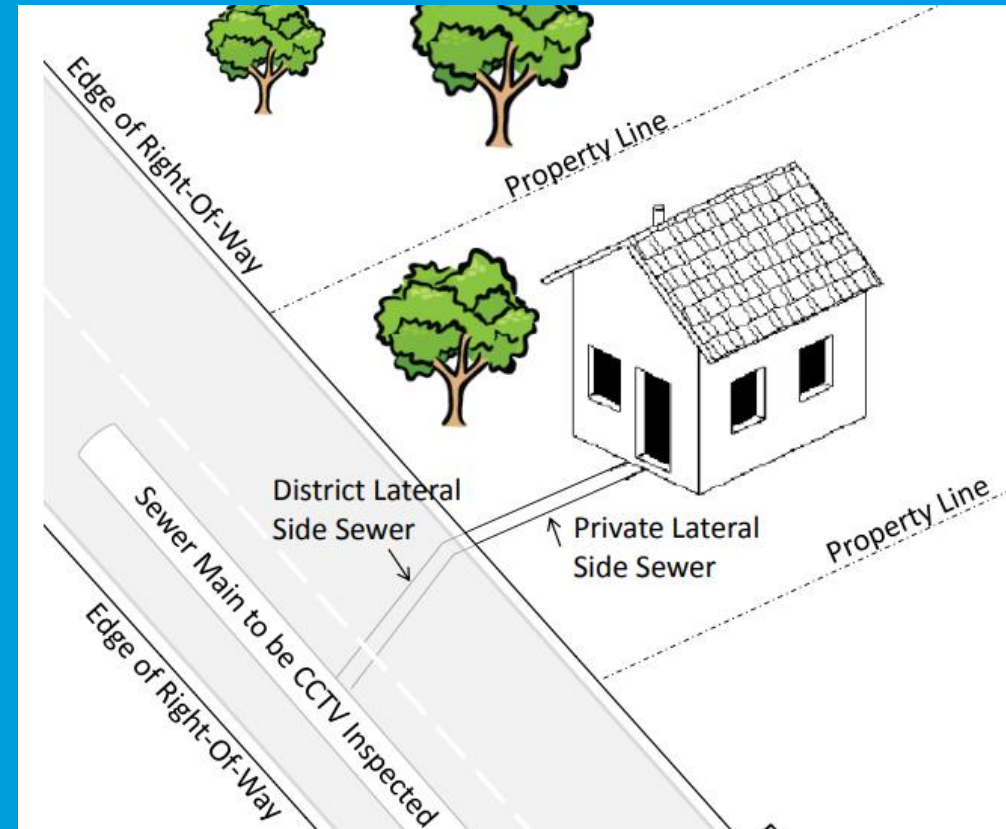




Possible revision topics

Ensuring property development is aligned with wastewater treatment needs to support long term livability

- Clarify sewer connection requirements and waiver process
- Add bedroom definition to improve consistency in building application reviews
- Add method to ensure that OSS matches the proposed use of a commercial facility after it transfers to a new owner



Raising standard of service to increase trust



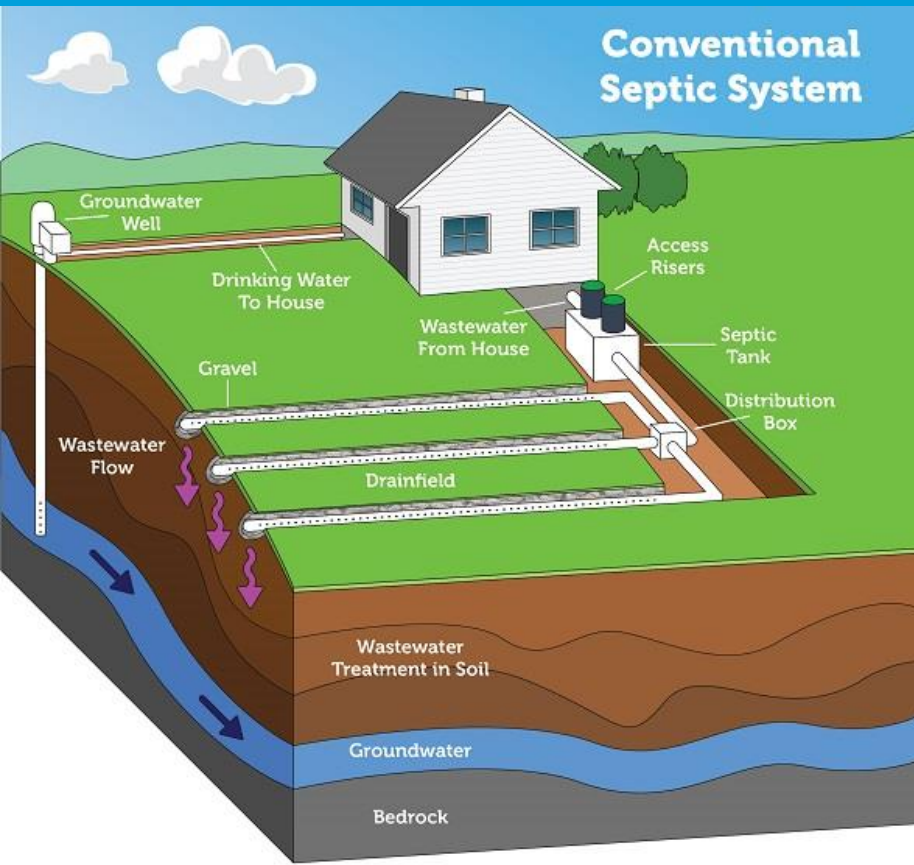
- Add protections against unpermitted installations
- Specify expectations for level of service from OSS industry
- Determine enforcement options for inadequate work
- Evaluate reporting requirements for OSS failures and change as needed to protect public health
- Consider creating new certification for liquid waste haulers and allow pumpers to inspect gravity OSS for routine inspection

Setting maintenance standards that help homeowners and providers work together to maintain healthy OSS

- Create effective management tools for holding tanks to prevent raw sewage discharges
- Reevaluate routine and time of sale inspection requirements in Title 13 and determine whether the current timelines beyond WAC requirements are justifiable
- Determine protections necessary to prevent life safety hazard of loose tank lids



Ensuring right sized solutions for environmental and public health protection



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

- Clarify requirements for nitrogen reduction and groundwater protection
- Determine under which conditions King County will allow using reduced loading rates included in revised WAC (smaller OSS)
- Clarify requirements for quality and clarity of record drawings

Next steps

- Subscribe to and share e-newsletter with your contacts:
www.kingcounty.gov/oss/alerts
- May-July: Public meetings
- September/October: Request an individual or small group briefing through Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Board Administrator
- November: Discussion and Possible Board Action adopting updated code