

ORDINANCE NO. 502

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PROPERTY OWNERS' OBLIGATION TO KEEP STEP, STEF AND STEG TANKS ACCESSIBLE TO TOWN REPRESENTATIVES.**

WHEREAS, to protect the public health and safety, it is necessary for authorized Town representatives to be able to access STEP (Septic Tank Effluent Pumping), STEF (Septic Tank Effluent Filter), and STEG (Septic Tank Effluent Gravity) tanks, including their electrical control/alarm boxes, at all times; and

WHEREAS, Ordinances 350 and 372 comprise the Town's comprehensive sewer ordinances, but do not include requirements for access to STEP, STEF and STEG tanks.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** It is the intent of this Ordinance to (1) require property owners to keep accesses to the STEP, STEF, and STEG tanks clear so that authorized representatives of the Town may access the tanks at any time; and (2) to authorized Town representatives to move objects out of the way of access, and bill property owners for the cost of moving such objects. To achieve this goal, the following provisions shall be in effect upon the passage of this ordinance:

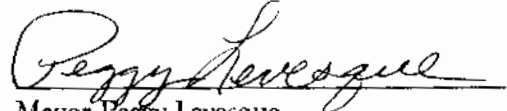
1. No person shall make a control/alarm box for a STEP or STEG tank inaccessible by locking it behind a door, fence, or gate, so that Town representatives cannot readily access the control/alarm box.
2. No person shall park a vehicle or trailer over the top of a STEP, STEF or STEG tank access lids, or build a structure over the top of same.
3. Property owners shall trim and maintain vegetation so that it does not obstruct access to the STEP, STEF or STEG tank or control box.
4. If any person's electrical service shall be disconnected, resulting in the discontinuance of electricity to the STEP tank pump or STEG, that person shall immediately contact the Town Hall to advise the Town that electricity has been disconnected. The Town shall then disconnect water service if necessary to prevent sewage from spilling on the ground.
5. Property owners shall be financially responsible for any damage to STEP, STEF, or STEG tanks, lids, and appurtenances. In addition, the Town may bill property owners for the cost of removing objects that obstruct access to the tanks.

**Section 2.** Ordinances 350 and 372 remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. If any provision of this ordinance is determined to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall remain in force and effect.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED IN REGULAR AND OPEN SESSION this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 2008.

  
Mayor Peggy Levesque  
INTRODUCED 2-5-2008  
PASSED 2-5-2008  
APPROVED 2-5-2008  
PUBLISHED 2-19-2008

Attested:

  
Marla Nevill, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:

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Kathleen Haggard, Town Attorney

