



**PIEDMONT  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSOCIATES, P.A.**

## Clearing Property Prior To Issuance of Septic System Permits

To prevent issues with soil removal and/or soil compaction, Piedmont Environmental Associates requires any clearing of properties be completed PRIOR to issuance of a septic permit for sites requiring shallow placed wastewater systems. *Clearing processes which may prevent issuance of a permit include removal of vegetation or trees in a manner that compromises soil integrity, movement of existing or new soil, filling existing ditches or cutting new ditches.*

- Septic system permits require a determination of the usable soil depth to an unsuitable characteristic. Removal of any soil alters this depth and can invalidate a septic permit. **No soil should be removed from the area allocated for the septic system and 100% repair area.**
- Soil compaction can occur if large equipment is used to clear lots. If soils are compacted, they cannot be remediated to their original condition and a permit will be denied/suspended/revoked. Bulldozers and other large equipment will cause soil compaction. **These vehicles should not be allowed on or near the area approved for the septic system or 100% repair area.**
- **No clearing of any type should be performed during wet conditions.** Wet soils are much more susceptible to compaction. If you have any doubts about whether the lot is dry enough, wait.
- If your plans include the addition of soil to the property, Piedmont Environmental Associates should be consulted first to ensure the filled area will not impact the septic system and 100% repair area. **Any equipment delivering and moving soil should be prevented access to these areas. The septic system areas should be fenced off to prevent the entrance of any machinery.**
- Trees should be removed with the smallest equipment possible. Small tree stumps may be physically removed. Large stumps should be ground in place to a depth below the surface elevation. **Bulldozers and other large machinery should not be used to remove tree stumps from the area of the septic system and 100% repair area.**
- If site plans include modification of water movement, such as cutting new ditches or filling existing ditches, Piedmont Environmental Associates should be consulted to determine if the septic system areas will be affected and if additional permitting may be required by other agencies. Recommendations can be made to ensure there are no detrimental effects.

Piedmont Environmental Associates always recommends the septic system and 100% repair area be fenced off or barricaded in some manner to prevent disturbance prior to installation. This prevents unintentional damage which could prevent the issuance of a permit or revocation of an existing permit.

Any cutting, filling or compaction of soil after issuance of a permit may result in revocation of the permit. If you have been told the land must be cleared prior to a permit being designed, please call us as soon as possible once the work is complete.