

Land application of septage now permitted in county

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Logan County District Board of Health members unanimously approved at their Wednesday afternoon meeting a motion to remove a former ban on the land application of septage from its regulations.

The action came after an hour-long executive session with the health district's lawyer, Logan County Assistant Prosecutor Daniel LaRoche, to discuss pending litigation against the agency by a local septage hauler because of this former ban.

Mr. LaRoche said the LCHD no longer has jurisdiction over the land application of septage because of recent state legislative action that rescinded a sewage bill passed last year that gave health districts the jurisdiction over this issue in the first place. Consequently, he advised the health board to omit the ban from agency regulations.

The health board passed the regulation banning septage land application at its June 2007 meeting after many months of discussion arguing both the benefits and the hazards of the practice.

Health District Administrator Lisa Downing said the health district will not be charged with overseeing the operations of septage haulers in the county, as that duty falls to the Federal EPA. However, the LCHD registers local septage haulers.