

**COOMWA Public Records Requests
To: King County**

Request	Anticipated Response	Impact
Monitoring contracts required by the County between OSS owners and private services.	Over 3,000 property owners with new OSS since 2007 have been required to make contracts with private monitoring companies to receive final permit to use their OSS systems.	Owners cannot take responsibility for system monitoring. Contracts cover monitoring of new systems that should have service length exceeding one year. Cost to the owner is between \$60-1,500 annually.
Sources in the contamination of water wells	The number of contaminated water wells from OSS is limited to anecdotal situations that are identified quickly via water well testing.	Claims of contamination and spreading of disease by OSS is unfounded. Such misinformation demonizes OSS, bringing down the value of private property.
Complaints made about OSS	King County claims of 4,000 complaints in 14 years includes multiple complaints about the same OSS or issues best referred to private contractors. Percentage of OSS generating complaints a small %	OSS generate few complaints. Less than ½ of 1% of the OSS in King County. Proper referral to service agencies would mitigate impact on County staff.
Justification for failing systems	Failed stress tests due improper test administration. Changing standards for soil content and volume of water usage.	Requirement to replace and upgrade systems at a cost of \$25-60,000. Property sales have been denied based on required upgrades or sewer tie-ins.
Tests used to make claims of pollution	Pollution is defined by presence of coliform and nitrogen that could be left by animals, water fowl, leaking sewers, biosolids. Most tests cannot differentiate or identify OSS as a source of pollution	Claims that OSS are a source of pollution are unfounded and not supported by scientific data. Unfounded claims have been used to justify OSS failures, required upgrades, outrageous expenses, detraction from true sources of pollution (CSO).
Sources of pollution causing the closures of beaches and fishing areas	70% of pollution in Puget Sound is from Combined System Overflow (CSO), the overflow of raw sewage from waste treatment plants. EPA citations have documented pollution from CSO.	OSS have not been scientifically identified as a pollution source. Most OSS are miles from the shoreline. Claims that OSS are "A Primary Source of Pollution" are false and should not be used as justification for regulations or enhanced standards.
Justification for exclusion of gravity septic systems as an option for OSS replacement.	New standards and stress tests exclude the possibility of repairing or replacing gravity systems.	Huge expenses to OSS owners, chasing ever-increasing standards. Increased cost of housing. Financial devastation for over 88,000 families.