

Below are the recommendations I sent to the City of Lake Placid planning council dealing with lake protection issues. Please forward to contractors in the area. If they have any questions tell them to please call me at the number below.

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**From:** Hooks, Mark E.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2007 7:53 AM  
**To:** 'Bert J. Harris, III'  
**Cc:** 'Richard.Deadman@dca.state.fl.us'; Briggs, Gerald R; Kruppa, Frank W  
**Subject:** Lake Placid Wastewater  
Bert,

My apologies for taking so long. I never did receive all of the information that was promised me by the county. However, after researching the water quality in your lakes I've found that they are mostly still in good condition (info from the water management district office). Blue, Lachard (AKA Rachard I believe) and Persimmon are notable exceptions. I was disappointed to learn that the Department of Environmental Protection has not evaluated the pollution sources in your lakes yet.

Given that the soils found in your area are effective at removing much of the phosphorous from wastewater, I am recommending a different approach to the septic tank issue. These options will be effective, yet in most cases cheaper than the performance based system or ATU approach that was previously suggested. In order to maximize the natural soil treatment I suggest the following language:

**Section 4.9.1** *(No changes)*

**Section 4.9.3 New Waterfront construction within 300 feet of a water body**

All systems shall be installed as far as possible from the ordinary high water mark of a surface water bodies (lake and streams) but in no case less than 75 feet. Systems shall obtain an operating permit from the Highlands County Health Department. The permit shall be good for 5 years and shall be renewed upon proof by the property owner that the septic tank has been pumped and inspected for proper function by a licensed plumber or septic tank contractor.

**Section 4.9.4** *(delete and replaced by language new suggested language)*

**Section 4.9.5** *(No changes)*

**Section 4.9.6** *(delete, already addressed in chapter 381 Florida Statutes)*

**Section 4.9.7** *(No changes)*

**Section 4.9.8** *(No changes)*

**Section 4.9.X Modifications or repairs to septic systems on existing properties**

Existing systems being modified or repaired shall meet the new system standards found in 64E-6 Florida Administrative Code. In cases where new system setbacks cannot be met, the system shall be located as far away from surface water bodies as possible but in no case shall be closer than the location of the existing system. Systems being repaired or modified shall obtain an operating permit from the Highlands County Health Department. The permit shall be good for 5 years and shall be renewed upon proof by the property owner that the septic tank has been pumped and inspected for proper function by a licensed plumber or septic tank contractor.

**Section 4.9.Y Proper maintenance of systems near impacted lakes**

By June 30, 2008 all systems within 300 feet of Blue, Lachard (AKA Rachard) and Persimmon lakes shall obtain an operating permit from the Highlands County Health Department. The operating permit shall be issued upon proof by the property owner that the septic tank has been pumped and inspected for proper function by a licensed plumber or septic tank contractor. The permit shall be good for 5 years and shall be renewed upon proof by the property owner that the septic tank has been pumped and inspected for continued proper function by a licensed plumber or septic tank contractor.

I also suggest that you consider some sort of a variance process whereby someone with a true hardship could petition the city council or advisory group for relief from the rules. Some provision for enforcement should also be worked out. I have shared this email with Frank Kruppa at the county health department and Mr Deadman at the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Kruppa indicated that he would be in touch with you later today and he will also attend the public meeting tonight. He can be reached at 863-386-6040 ext 222. Please let me know if you need anything further from me.

*Sincerely,*  
*Mark Hooks RS, CPM*  
*Environmental Administrator*  
*Florida Department of Health*  
*(850) 245-4092*  
*Email: Mark\_Hooks@doh.state.fl.us*