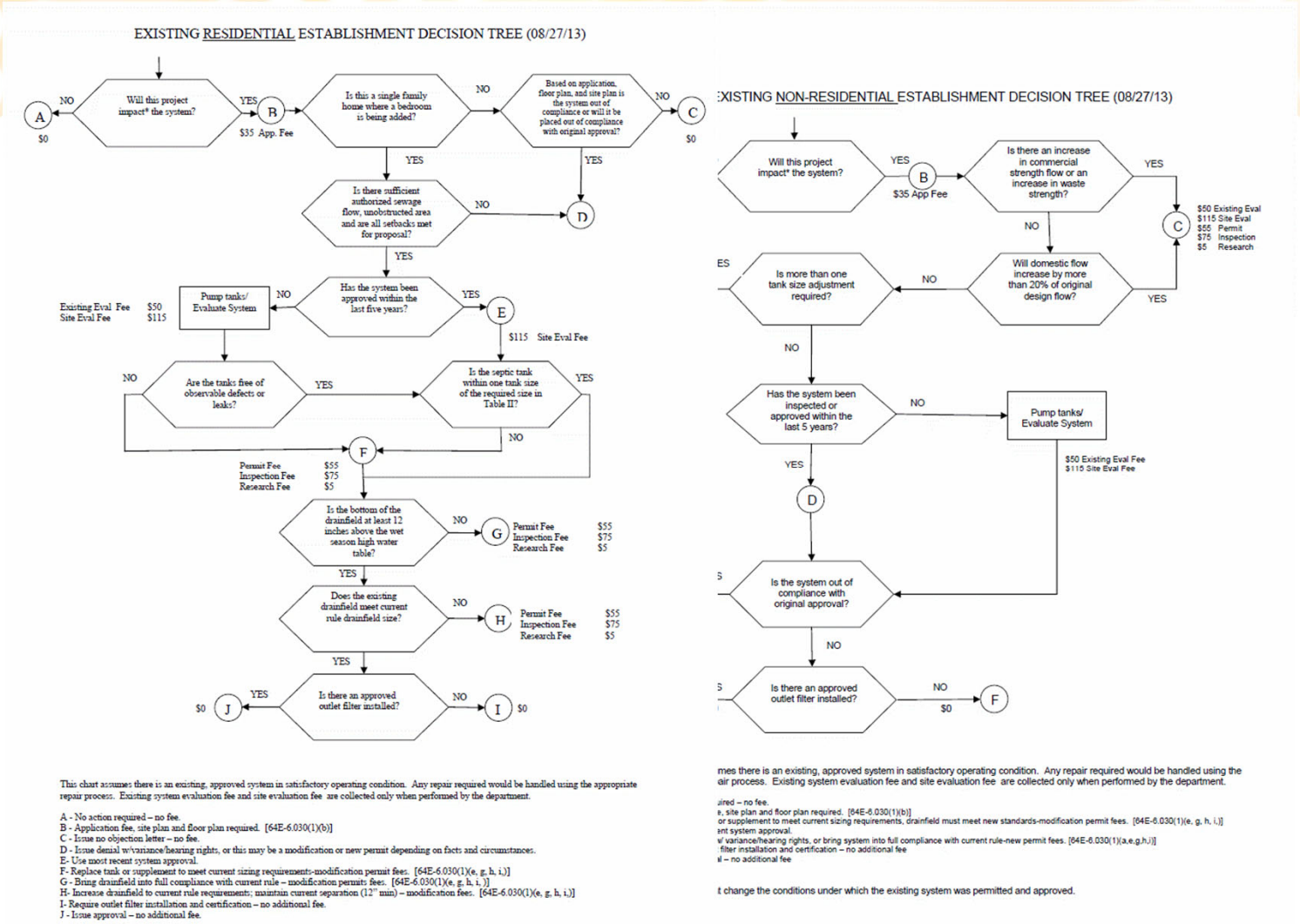


B - 9:00- 10:00

Existing System / Modification Standards

Existing System / Modification Standards

- Application Forms (Is it really a Modification?)
- Existing Tank Certification
- Existing System Information and Decision tree
- Permit Specifications
- Classroom Exercise
- Sample Forms

Application Forms (Is it really a Modification?)

- The existing system provisions of rule 64E-6 apply only to existing, prior-approved systems which have been placed into service and remain in satisfactory operating conditions .
  - This is evaluated according to the rule and permit under which they were originally issued approval [per 64E-6.001(4), FAC].
  - If these prerequisites cannot be proven to hold true, the original approval is void, and additional permitting or or a variance must be applied for.
  - If there is no impact to the conditions under which the system was originally permitted and approved, the system would remain valid for continued use under those terms. (see Memo HSES 13-005 for recent updates to these considerations)

Application Forms (Is it really a Modification?)

- The existing system provisions of rule 64E-6 apply only to existing, prior-approved systems which have been placed into service and remain in satisfactory operating conditions .
  - A structure destroyed by a disaster can be replaced with the same type of structure without requiring modification of the existing system if:
    - The new structure does not have more than 10% more building.
    - The new structure has the same number or fewer bedrooms.
    - There is no sanitary nuisance.
    - The system has not been altered without approval.

Existing System Evaluation

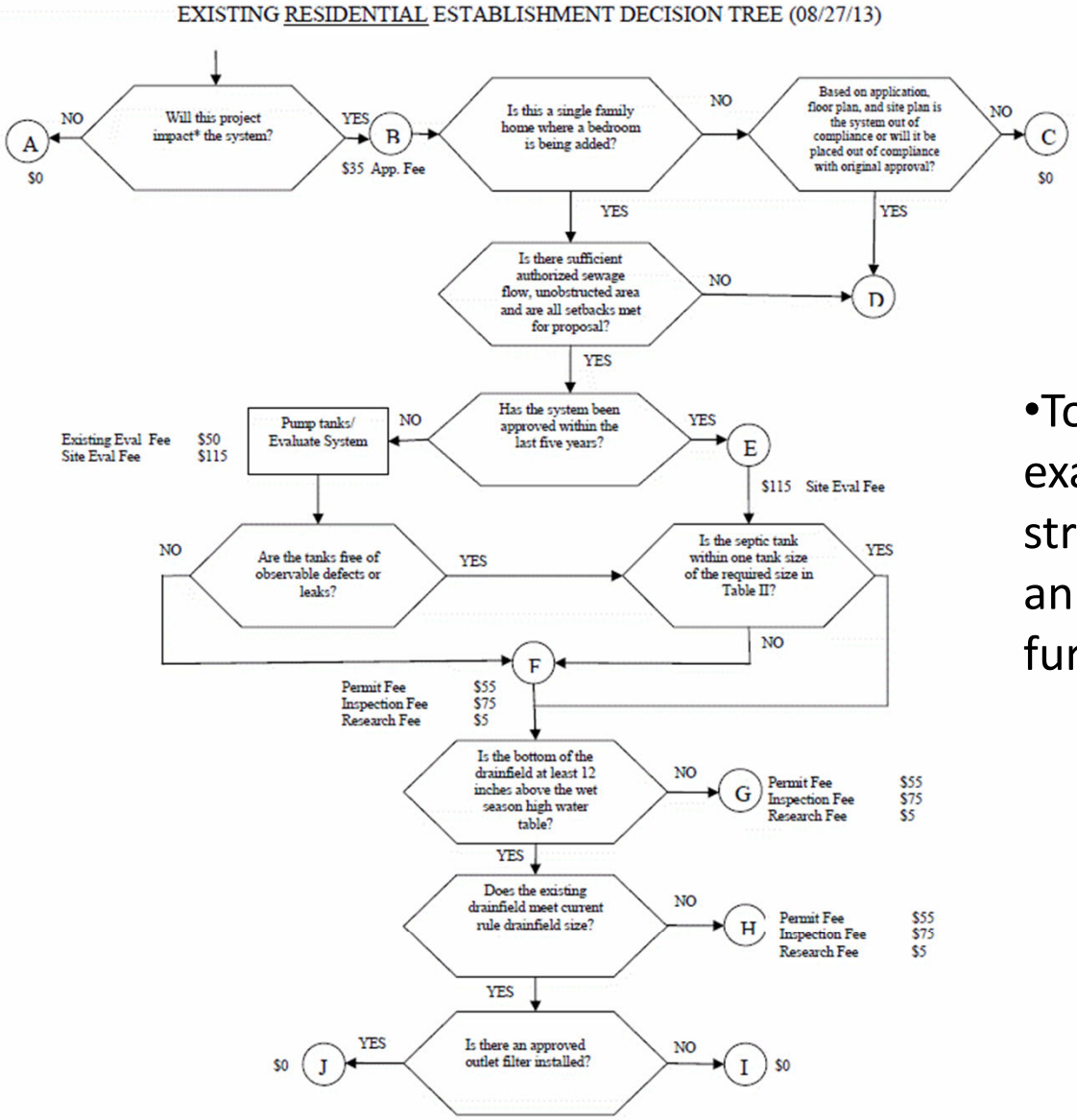
- The existing tank and drainfield information is collected on form DH4015pg4.
  - This information is identical to that collected for a repair permit, with the exception that the system is not usually in failure.
  - Where a system is found to be in failure:
    - If there is no change in flow, issue an existing system repair permit.
    - If there is a change in flow, proceed as normal – however, this does not authorize the applicant to maintain a sanitary nuisance on-site. If no modification is required, a repair permit must still be obtained.

Tank Certification: Existing Systems

- Tank has no observable defects or leaks and is constructed of approved materials
- Tank has outlet filter
- Effective capacity within **one** tank size
  - Determine this by comparing the existing tank size to the required tank size in Table II.

Existing System Information and Decision Tree:

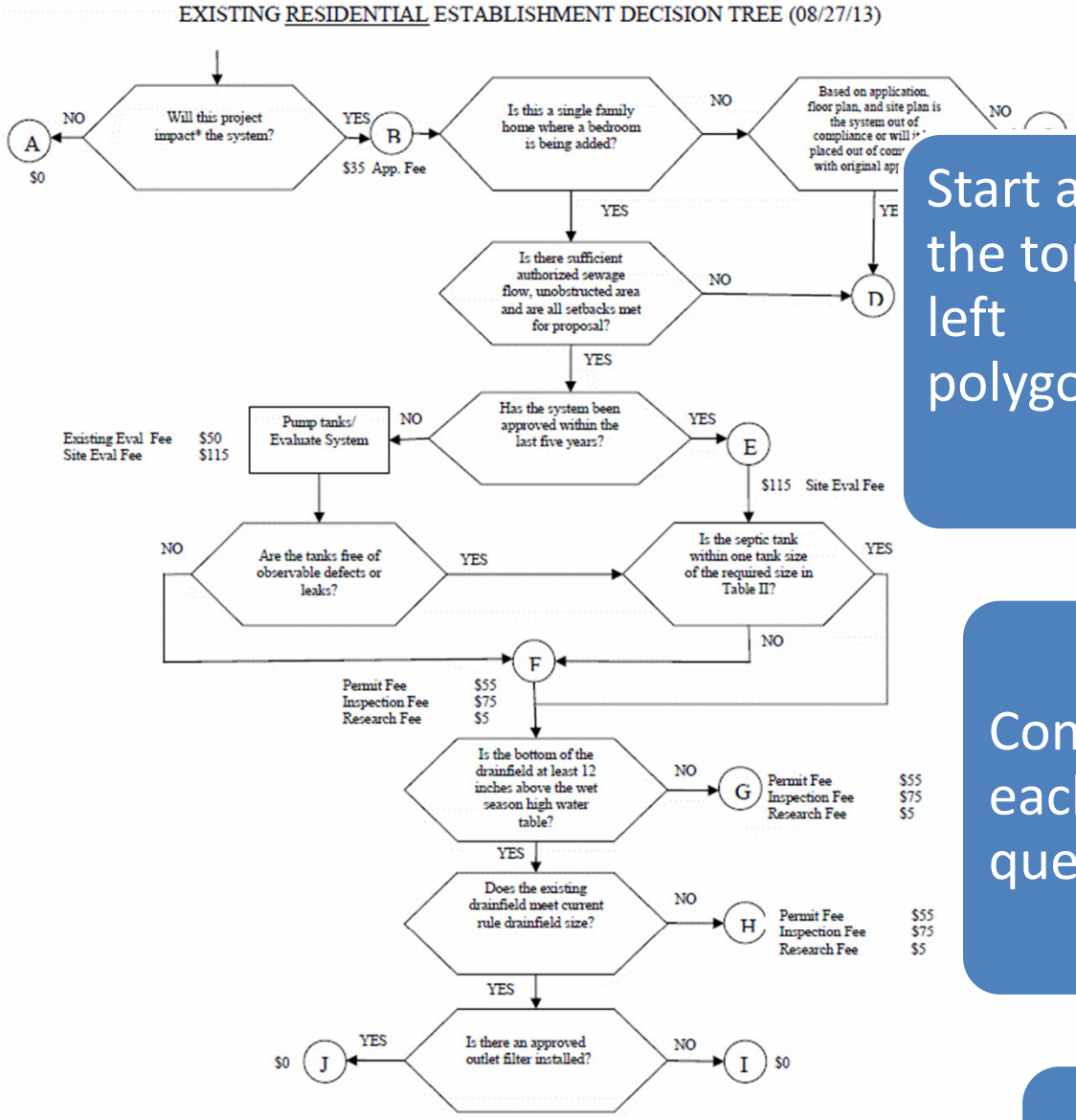
- The Residential decision trees serve as a guide to determine the required permitting steps when evaluating a proposed change to a structure with an existing OSTDS.
- Applying for an existing system review supposes that a system is a prior-approved, existing system which has been placed in to service and is not in failure.
- Possible outcomes of an Existing System review are:
  - No-objection letter.
  - Approval.
  - Modification Permit.
  - Repair Permit.
  - Denial.



This chart assumes there is an existing, approved system in satisfactory operating condition. Any repair required would be handled using the appropriate repair process. Existing system evaluation fee and site evaluation fee are collected only when performed by the department.

A - No action required – no fee.
B - Application fee, site plan and floor plan required. [64E-6.030(1)(b)]
C - Issue no objection letter – no fee.
D - Issue denial w/variance/hearing rights, or this may be a modification or new permit depending on facts and circumstances.
E- Use most recent system approval.
F- Replace tank or supplement to meet current sizing requirements-modification permit fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
G - Bring drainfield into full compliance with current rule – modification permits fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
H- Increase drainfield to current rule requirements; maintain current separation (12" min) – modification fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
I- Require outlet filter installation and certification – no additional fee.
J - Issue approval – no additional fee.

- To determine whether the following example of a proposed change to the existing structure will result in a no-objection letter, an existing system approval, or require further permitting:
  - Step through each consideration of the flowchart.
  - At each letter notation (A – K), there is a note below explaining any further permitting required in order to continue.



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I- Require outlet filter installation and certification – no additional fee.
J - Issue approval – no additional fee.

Start at the top left polygon.

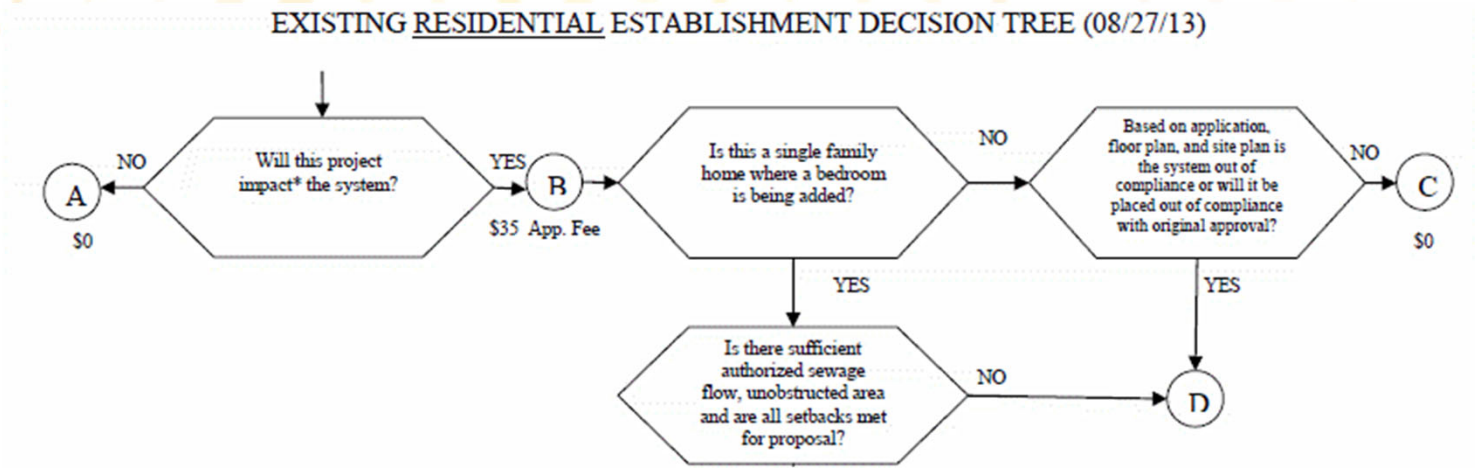
Consider each question.

Arrive at final outcome.

Example 1

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add office space of 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank - certified
- Existing 429 sq. ft drain field bed - not in failure.

Flowchart



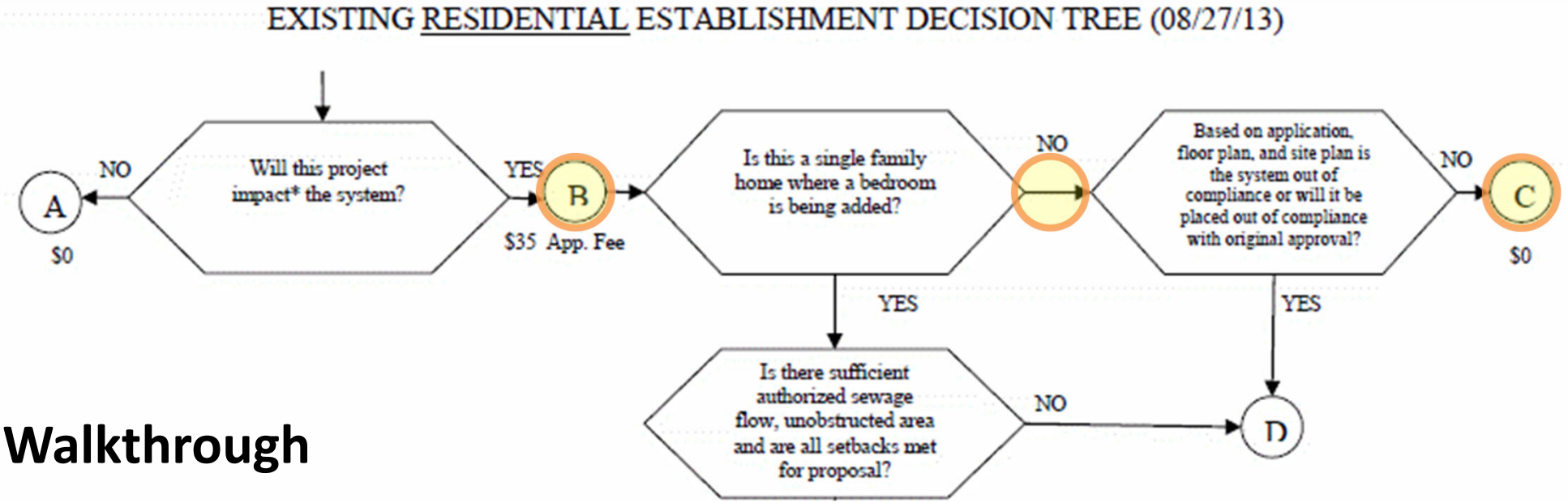
Walkthrough

- Will this project impact the system*?
  - If no: "A" (no action required by rule).
  - If yes: "B" (Existing system evaluation required by rule).
- Is this a single family home where a bedroom is being added?
  - If not, continue to the right.
  - If yes, see next example.
- Based on your review of the application, floor plan, and site plan is the system out of compliance or will it be placed out of compliance with the original approval?
  - If no, "C," issue no-objection letter.
  - If yes, "D," issue denial, allowing for further permitting or variance application.

Example 1

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add office space of 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank-certified
- Existing 429 sq. ft drain field bed-not in failure.
- **Evaluate:**
  - **There is an impact to the system (based on the floor plan, the total estimated sewage flow changes due to an increase in building area beyond 3 bedroom [2250 sq.ft.] limit).**
  - **No change in number of bedrooms**
  - **All setbacks ok.**

Flowchart



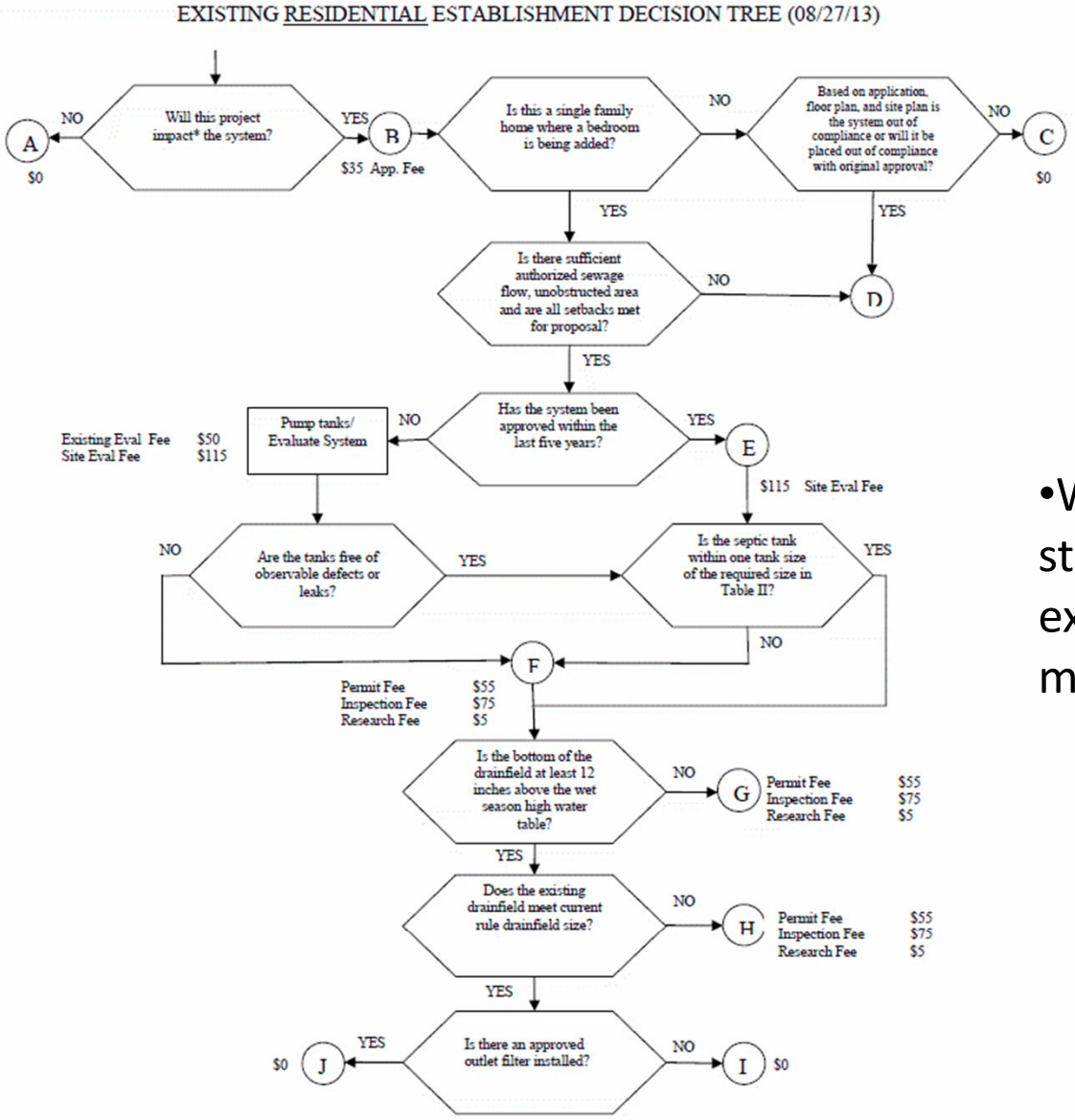
Walkthrough

- Will this project impact the system*?
- Is this a single family home where a bedroom is being added?
- Based on your review of the application, floor plan, and site plan is the system out of compliance or will it be placed out of compliance with the original approval?

Example 1

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add office space of 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank-certified
- Existing 429 sq. ft drain field bed-not in failure.
- **Evaluate:**
  - **There is an impact to the system (based on the floor plan, the total estimated sewage flow changes due to an increase in building area beyond 3 bedroom [2250 sq.ft.] limit).**
  - **No change in number of bedrooms**
  - **All setbacks ok.**

Issue: No-objection letter.



This chart assumes there is an existing, approved system in satisfactory operating condition. Any repair required would be handled using the appropriate repair process. Existing system evaluation fee and site evaluation fee are collected only when performed by the department.

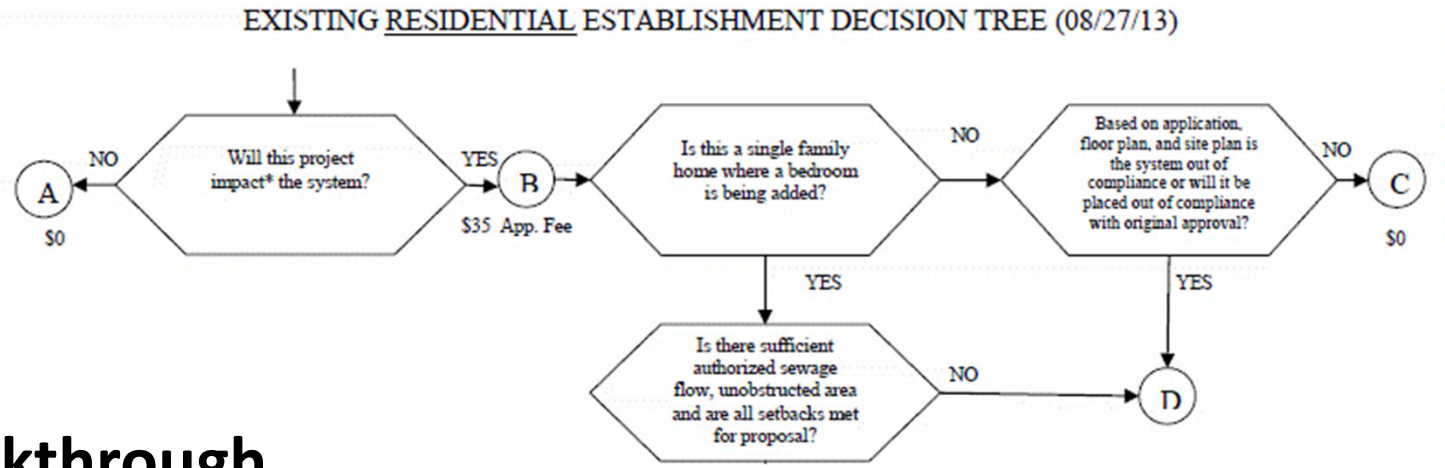
A - No action required – no fee.
B - Application fee, site plan and floor plan required. [64E-6.030(1)(b)]
C - Issue no objection letter – no fee.
D - Issue denial w/variance/hearing rights, or this may be a modification or new permit depending on facts and circumstances.
E- Use most recent system approval.
F- Replace tank or supplement to meet current sizing requirements-modification permit fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
G - Bring drainfield into full compliance with current rule – modification permits fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
H- Increase drainfield to current rule requirements; maintain current separation (12" min) – modification fees. [64E-6.030(1)(e, g, h, i,)]
I- Require outlet filter installation and certification – no additional fee.
J - Issue approval – no additional fee.

- Will the following proposed change to the structure result in a no-objection letter, an existing system approval, or require modification of the system?

Example 2

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add 1bedroom, 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank-certified
- Existing 375 sq. ft drain field (in trenches, fine sand) not in failure.
- 12” separation from WSWT.
- Tanks certified and w/in 1 size current rule.

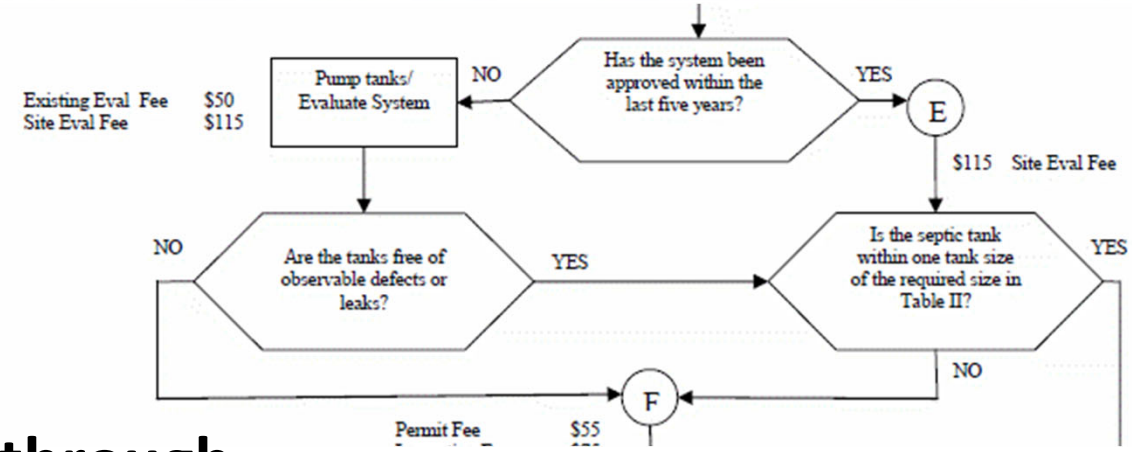
Flowchart



Walkthrough

- Will this project impact the system*?
  - If no: "A" (no action required by rule).
  - If yes: "B" (Existing system evaluation required by rule).
- Is this a single family home where a bedroom is being added?
  - If not, see previous example.
  - If yes, follow arrow downward to next polygon.
- Is there sufficient authorized sewage flow, unobstructed area, and are all setbacks met for proposal?
  - If No, "D," issue denial, allowing for further permitting or variance application.
  - If yes, follow arrow downward to next polygon.

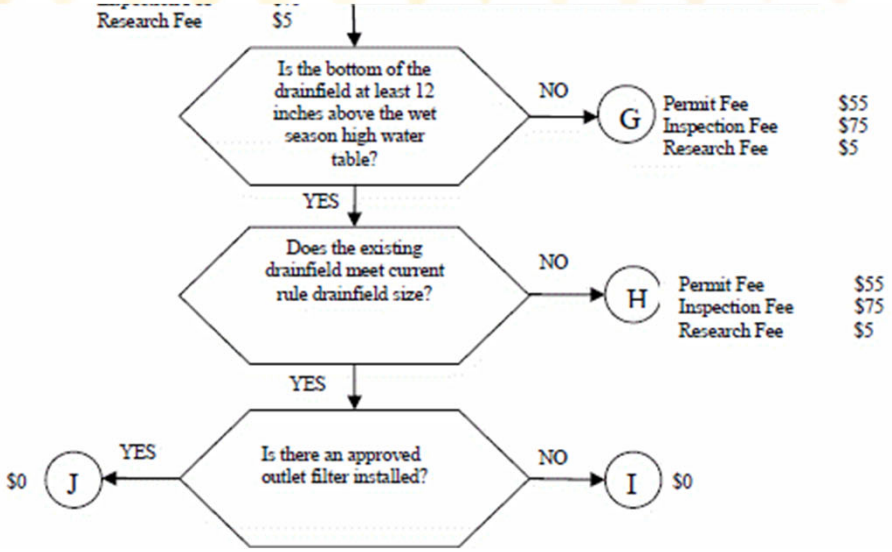
Flowchart



Walkthrough

- Has the system been approved within the last five years?
  - If no: Pump tanks to determine if certifiable/Evaluate System (DH4015p4). Require Site Evaluation.
  - If yes: No tank certification required. Use previous approval to Evaluate System (DOH4015p4). Require Site Evaluation. Continue to next polygon, below.
- Are the tanks free of observable defects or leaks?
  - If not, "F" – Require tank replacement or supplement to meet CURRENT sizing requirement, then continue to next slide.
  - If yes, continue to next polygon to the right.
- Is the septic tank within one tank size of the required size in Table II?
  - If no, "F" – Require tank replacement or supplement to meet CURRENT sizing requirement.
  - If yes, continue to next slide.

Flowchart



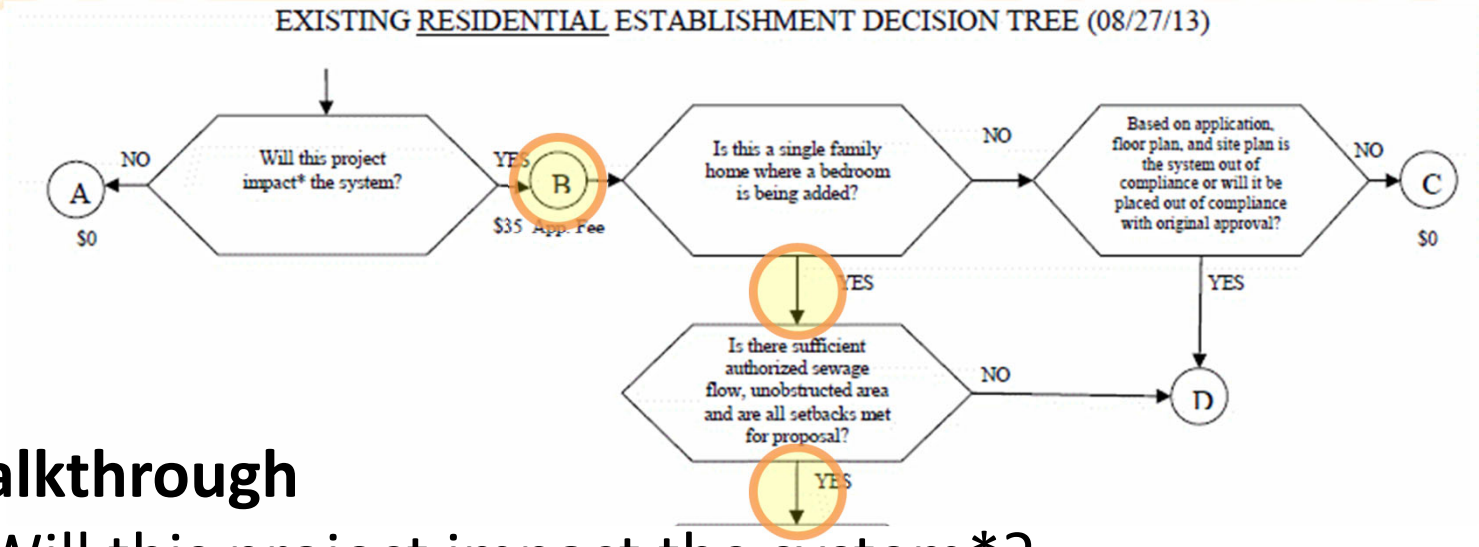
Walkthrough

- Is the bottom of the drainfield at least 12 inches above the wet season high water table?
  - If no: "G" – Bring DRAINFIELD into FULL compliance with current rule requirements and require outlet filter.
  - If yes: Continue to next polygon, below.
- Does the existing drainfield meet current rule drainfield size?
  - If not, "H" – Increase drainfield size to current rule requirements; maintain the current WSWT separation.
  - If yes, continue to next polygon, below.
- Is there an approved outlet filter installed?
  - If no, "I" – Require outlet filter installation and certification (DH4015p4).
  - If yes, "J" – Issue approval.

Example 2

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add 1bedroom, 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank-certified
- Existing 375 sq. ft drain field (in trenches, fine sand) not in failure.
- 12” separation from WSWT.
- Tanks certified and w/in 1 size current rule.
- **Information to consider:**
  - **Change in number of bedrooms and sqft.**
  - **Sufficient Authorized flow.**

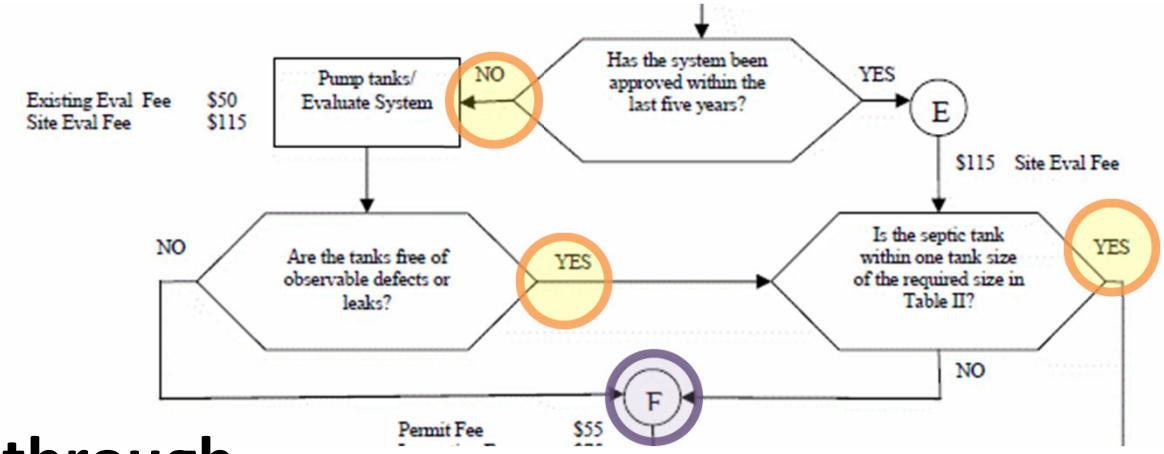
Flowchart



Walkthrough

- Will this project impact the system*?
  - Yes: The proposed project would alter the parameters originally used for system sizing.
- Is this a single family home where a bedroom is being added?
  - Yes: Both a bedroom and building area would be added.
- Is there sufficient authorized sewage flow, unobstructed area, and are all setbacks met for proposal?
  - Yes: (this is determined by comparing the proposed sewage flow to the authorized sewage flow for the property).

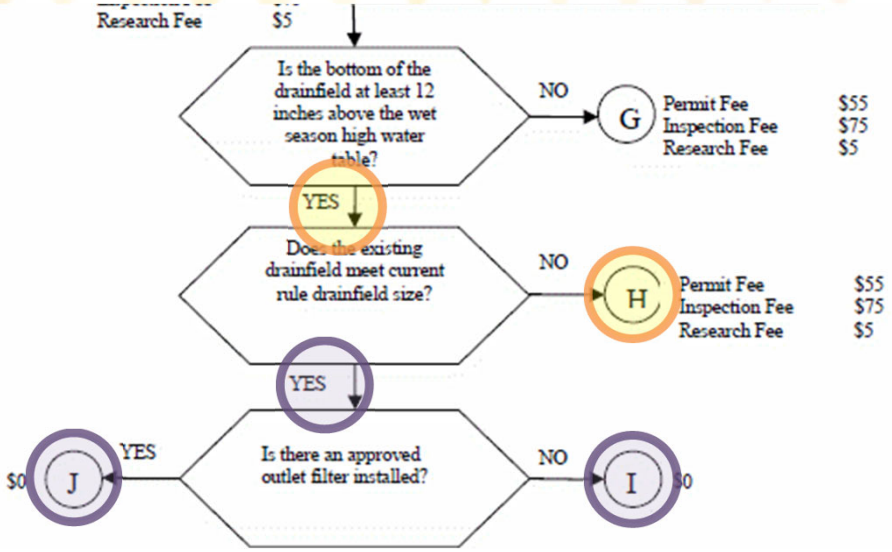
Flowchart



Walkthrough

- Has the system been approved within the last five years?
  - No: Requires tanks be pumped and inspected, the existing system measured, and the information submitted on form DH4015p4 (if DOH will measure the existing system, a fee is charged). Requires site evaluation (DOH4015p3).
- Are the tanks free of observable defects or leaks?
  - In this case, YES, the tank was certified by the registered contractor.
- Is the septic tank within one tank size of the required size in Table II?
  - In this case, Yes, continue to next slide. (If not, the resultant permit would require tank be replaced or supplemented to meet CURRENT size requirements). Continue to next page to determine if drainfield modification is needed.

Flowchart



Walkthrough

- Is the bottom of the drainfield at least 12 inches above the wet season high water table?
  - In this case, Yes: Continue to next polygon, below. Otherwise, the drainfield would need to be replaced with one meeting all NEW drainfield standards (also requires presence of outlet filter at time of inspection, if not present on certification).
- Does the existing drainfield meet current rule drainfield size?
  - In this case, NO, so: "H" – Increase drainfield size to current rule requirements; maintain the current WSWT separation (also requires presence of outlet filter at time of inspection, if not present on certification).
- If above were answered "yes" is there an approved outlet filter installed?
  - If no, "I" – Require outlet filter installation and certification (DH4015p4).
  - If yes, "J" – Issue approval.

Example 2

- Existing 3 bedroom/1860 sq. ft SFR
- Requests to add 1bedroom, 420 sq.ft.
- Existing 900 gallon septic tank-certified
- Existing 375 sq. ft drain field (in trenches, fine sand) not in failure.
- 12” separation from WSWT.
- Tanks certified and w/in 1 size current rule.
- **Information to consider:**
  - **Change in number of bedrooms and sqft.**
  - **Sufficient Authorized flow.**
- **Requires a modification permit.**

Permit Specifications

- Specifications for permits required to modify existing systems can be determined using rule 64E-6.001, FAC, and the flowchart.
- The required system setbacks, other than the existing (minimum 12”) WSWT separation, are the same as for new system construction – the setbacks in Table V do not apply.
  - Where existing setbacks to not meet these standards, the permit must be denied, and a variance may be sought by the applicant.