



TO: All Sewage Enforcement Officers and DEP Regional Staff

March 1998



*Alternate/Experimental Systems Guidance Supplement - Peat Filters*

This notice represents a supplement to the Department's *Alternate and Experimental Systems Guidance*. The following specifications also serve to clarify the Department's letter to Ecoflo dated February 25, 1998. The conditions listed below will apply to any alternate peat filter systems.

All other applications of peat filter technology will be considered experimental and be subject to the provisions under Chapter 73.71. The Department will specify the experimental conditions for the use of the Ecoflo system, in particular, in the April edition of the *Alternate and Experimental Systems Guidance*.

**Alternate Classification:** All conditions are subject to the provisions of Chapter 73.72.

***Placement***

- A. All peat filter systems may be used in conjunction with any conventional, Chapter 73 absorption area design or alternate at-grade system.
- B. A peat filter installation for an alternate design permit shall be located outside of the absorption area it is to serve - the filter may not be physically integrated into the absorption area.

***Absorption area***

- A. Absorption areas may be reduced in size from the requirements specified in Chapter 73.16, Table A, by no more than 40%. No further reductions are allowed when aerobic pre-treatment units are proposed.



- B. The peat filter shell shall consist of a minimum of 200 cubic feet of peat, hand placed, to a depth of no less than 31 inches. The surface area at the top of the peat shall not be less than 90 square feet.

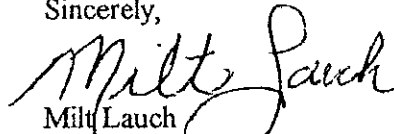
All other design conditions will be specified by the manufacturer.

*Annual System Inspection*

- A. The manufacturer will provide an annual system inspection for a period of seven years. The inspection protocol will follow the manufacturer's specifications and will be included and specified in the purchase agreement.

If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please contact the DEP Central Office by calling 717-787-8184.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milt Lauch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Milt Lauch

Chief, Division of Wastewater Management