



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 8774

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774

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Bureau of Water Quality Protection

717-787-8184

TO: All Sewage Enforcement Officers

The enclosed Infiltrator design guidelines replace all previous Infiltrator specifications that have been distributed by Infiltrator Systems Incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania. The enclosed specifications, dated July 20, 1998, detail the Infiltrator design guidelines for sewage enforcement officers and installers. These technical specifications will be added to item # 4, "Leaching Chambers," under Alternate Systems in future issues of the *Alternate and Experimental Systems Guidance*. Infiltrator installations proposing the use of leaching chambers on a 1:1 replacement with aggregate are required to comply with Chapter 73, Section 73.16 and 73.51. In addition:

-Infiltrators may be used in the design of pressure dosed systems and may be constructed on sites where the percolation rate is between 3-180min./in. All Chapter 73 standards (with the exception of those noted in attached design guidelines) shall apply to the use of these chamber systems in pressurized system design and construction. Infiltrator chambers are also acceptable for use in gravity fed systems with percolation rates between 6-60min./in.

-The minimum absorption area required for a system using leaching chambers must be based on the average percolation rate as determined using the standards in Section 73.15.

-The minimum width of undisturbed soil between trenches shall be in accordance with Section 73.52(b)(4).

-The minimum cover over the unit shall be in accordance with Section 73.52(b)(14).

-When used in a bed configuration, these units shall be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.

-No department review is required.

All items under the category of Alternate Systems, # 4 (b) of the *Alternate and Experimental Systems Guidance* (July 1997), apply to 40% reductions in absorption areas.

The new standards were developed in cooperation with members of the sewage enforcement officer community, county health department officials, Infiltrator representatives, other state environmental agencies, and DEP. The new standards are intended to address several unresolved issues regarding the proper installation of Infiltrator leaching chambers and to clarify a number of inconsistencies between the manufacturer's installation procedures and DEP's regulatory requirements.

Enclosure

