



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 Supply  
and Wastewater Management**

717-787-8184

To All Sewage Enforcement Officers:

This is my first SEO letter of the new calendar year. I hope the post-holiday period finds everyone safe and well. I began these letters to keep you informed of the most recent developments in the Sewage Facilities Program at DEP and the letters appear to be successful. The positive feedback following my first two is greatly appreciated. As I mentioned in my first letter last October, I will continue to send future letters as events and circumstances permit.

**Update on Field-Testing of the AdvanTex® AX20 Onlot Treatment System:** A number of test sites for verifying the performance of this technology have been identified across the state. Final site selection has not yet occurred and DEP is still accepting requests to consider additional sites. Sites in the north central part of the state are of particular interest. A broad range of disposal site characteristics and limitations will be considered for the purpose of this experiment. If you have a prospective site please contact us. Installation at selected sites is expected to begin next spring.

There have been several questions regarding AdvanTex® AX20 system permitting procedures. Consistent with 25 PA Code Chapter 73, Section 73.71, permits will be issued by the local agency after consideration of comments from DEP. All other requirements of Chapters 71 and 73, including but not limited to the need for a hydrogeologic site evaluation [Section 71.62(c)] and a sewage disposal replacement area [Section 73.71(d)] must be met when conditions warrant.

More detailed information on this project can be found in my last *To All Sewage Enforcement Officers* letter dated November 3, 2003. All information on possible test sites should be e-mailed to Tom Franklin with DEP's Innovation Technology Section at [thfranklin@state.pa.us](mailto:thfranklin@state.pa.us) or call 717-783-1820.

**Experimental Issues:** There has been minor confusion reported about the effective date of the most current Experimental Systems Guidance (ESG). The ESG was originally published earlier last year with a January 2003 effective date and later the same year, the Alternate System Guidance (ASG) was published. The ESG and ASG are tied closely together by technology classifications, such that, moving technologies from one classification to another will actually affect both documents. Such a movement occurred with the publishing of the most recent ASG. In this case, a technology (Experimental Peat System Option 2 using at-grade absorption) was moved from the ESG into the ASG. Since DEP uses an abbreviated administrative process for minor revisions to documents, the ESG was subsequently edited to reflect the change and assigned a new effective date of July 29, 2003 without



fanfare. For identification purposes, this new date is reflected on the title page and in the footer of all the pages in the document.

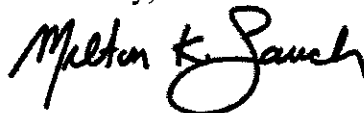
**Be Careful What You Accept:** Anyone familiar with using e-mail and the internet has likely re-learned that you must be very careful about what information is accepted as true and accurate. Last year the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF) was concerned to learn that using common computer technology, it was possible to download a listing from their website and change it without their knowledge. They learned that such altered listings were presented to regulatory officials as proof of NSF certification and subsequently included a warning in their publication "Regulatory World" about the practice.

Closer to home, some of you may have received misleading advertising recently for an NSF Standard 40 aerobic treatment unit manufactured by Microseptec. This information was apparently mailed to all SEOs in the Commonwealth by a local vendor using an SEO mailing list. This advertisement could be construed as meaning that the technology was approved by the Department for use in nitrogen reduction applications. It states the Enviroserver system is an ideal application "for small flow use when an existing septic system has failed, in critical areas where reductions in Nitrogen discharge are required, or where conditions such as poor percolation or high water table do not permit the use of conventional septic systems." Please be aware that this technology has not been approved by DEP for anything beyond the NSF 40 rating required by Chapter 73, Section 73.32.

Although this problem is a first for this particular technology, this is not the first time that misleading advertising implying some form of DEP approval or "official" listing has surfaced within the last year. If you haven't heard it from DEP, I suggest verifying any unusual sounding claims, and particularly claims that raise your suspicions, through your local DEP field office or by using direct regulatory references from quasi regulatory agencies such as the online NSF listings at <[www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)> .

**Glass Aggregate Update:** In late breaking news, DEP Central Office Staff have been working to streamline the existing "site specific alternate use" of recycled glass materials in onlot sewage systems by including alternate construction material specification for it in a forthcoming ASG. This new addition was distributed to the Sewage Advisory Committee for concurrence in late December, clearing the way for public release. Watch for more details and an announcement in our next letter.

Sincerely,



Milt K. Lauch

Chief

Division of Wastewater Management