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**Bureau of Water Supply
and Wastewater Management**

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To All Sewage Enforcement Officers:

You may recall from the January letter, that my staff was working on revisions to the Alternate Systems Guidance (ASG). The purpose of this letter is to advise you about the public release of that newly revised ASG and to provide a few highlights of the more significant changes. Please be advised that these are not the only changes to the document and this letter is **not** a substitute for reviewing the new ASG document. This letter is not intended to be a complete change listing but rather a “heads-up” to several you might find interesting.

The two most visible changes to the guidance involve alternate construction materials and access to gravity sand filters. The new ASG Section 7, Alternate Aggregates is found on page 25. We have broadened the section listings for “Type C” natural aggregate and recycled “Rubber Rocks” tire chips, by including the specifications for glass cullet for use as a coarse aggregate and a recycled glass fine aggregate material for use in place of conventional sand aggregate in onlot sewage systems. The second most visible change is to the access openings in the Free Access Gravity Sand Filter specifications. Found on page 14, paragraph “f” now provides for several options of access opening shape and size to facilitate maintenance of these units.

Two more changes impact chamber systems found in Section 6 and Appendix 2. A new infiltrator chamber design was added to the ASG listing and the gravity distribution requirements for chamber systems were modified to include an internal gravity distribution system within the chambers, similar to the existing pressure distribution system. This change will result in a more even application of sewage effluent within the entire chamber system.

There is also a clarification to the required laboratory testing for the Alternate Peat Filter Option 1 when used on shallow limiting zone conditions of less than 20 inches. See page 12 for details.

For identification purposes, the revised ASG is dated February 6, 2004. It is available online, at the DEP website www.dep.state.pa.us under final guidance. You can also access it from Division of Wastewater Management pages at http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/Wqp/WQP_WM/wqp_wm.htm or directly using the address http://www.dep.state.pa.us/eps/docs/cab200149b1126000/fldr200149e0051190/fldr200149e0052191/doc20041ha305900d/362-0300-007_4.pdf.

Sincerely,

Milt K. Lauch
Chief

Division of Wastewater Management