

## Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

June 30, 2006

Secretary

717-787-2814

Terralift International  
104 E. Main Street- Box 532  
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Gentlemen:

I am writing to inform you that, effective July 1, 2006, the Terralift soil fracturing procedure is no longer authorized for any purpose pertaining to onlot sewage treatment or management in Pennsylvania until such time as additional research and field testing of soil fracturing is successfully demonstrated. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has taken this position in response to the unanimous recommendation of members of the Pennsylvania Sewage Advisory Committee, as well as first-hand experiences reported to our staff by local regulators, and reports from onsite program professionals. The concerns raised by these sources and the experiences reported are cause for serious questions about the applicability of the Terralift process to onlot sewage facilities.

In the past, DEP authorized the use of the Terralift soil fracturing process without a permit for onlot sewage system maintenance not involving system malfunction repair. This limited permission was granted through two letters (dated August 5, and September 17, 1997) signed by the then Deputy Secretary for Water Management. A copy of each of these letters is enclosed. Use of the Terralift soil fracturing process without a permit was prohibited for sewage system malfunction repairs.

Please be advised that the referenced letters are hereby rescinded, thus extending the prohibition of the use of the Terralift soil fracturing process to all onlot sewage system applications, including maintenance. This prohibition shall continue until the Terralift process is demonstrated through DEP's Experimental Onlot Wastewater Technology Verification Program (TVP). We request that you immediately notify all of your vendors in Pennsylvania to cease using your soil fracturing process and to do so until the process is demonstrated under the TVP.

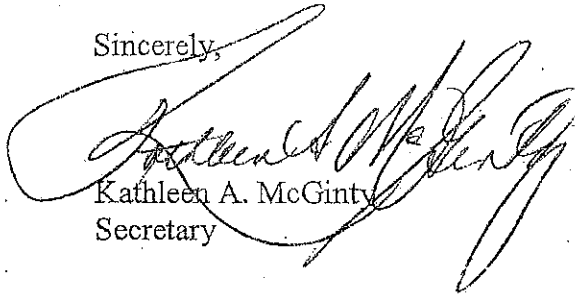
We encourage you to consider testing the process through the TVP where its proper application to onlot sewage systems can undergo third-party evaluation. Details concerning the TVP process are found in the technical guidance document titled *Experimental Onlot Wastewater Technology Verification Program* (381-2208-001). A copy is enclosed. This guidance document is also available online from the DEP website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us).



The prohibition applies to the specific use of this technology with onlot sewage treatment. This notice is not intended to restrict applications of the Terralift soil modification process that do not relate to onlot sewage systems.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John Hines of the Water Management Deputate staff by e-mail at [johines@state.pa.us](mailto:johines@state.pa.us) or by phone at 717-783-4693.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty  
Secretary

Enclosures