



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

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Bureau of Water Standards
and Facility Regulation

717-787-8184

To All Sewage Enforcement Officers:

This letter discusses the application of the Geomatrix SoilAir process recently classified by DEP as alternate technology in Pennsylvania, announces suspension of the classification and permitting of additional experimental drip micromound system designs until the experimental process is completed, and provides a reminder about PennVest low interest loans for malfunction repairs.

Alternate System Classification of Geomatrix SoilAir Process: DEP has recently classified the Geomatrix SoilAir process as an alternate technology in Pennsylvania and will add it to the *Alternate Systems Guidance* (ASG) when that guidance is updated sometime in 2007.

SoilAir is an air injection process that has been demonstrated to renovate absorption areas identified as having excessive biomat buildup. It operates on the principal of increasing oxygen levels within an absorption area to change the existing environmental conditions and reestablish acceptable treatment equilibrium within that absorption area. The use of air injection may, in many cases, be a cost-effective option to correct failed absorption areas where the cause of that failure is biomat clogging. The company website (www.soilair.com) is a source for general information.

The technology is considered a permanent installation and a local agency permit will be required for any SoilAir installation.

Until the updated ASG is published and a training course on air injection technology is available to SEOs, all SoilAir design proposals must be submitted to the appropriate DEP regional office and this office for review and classification as a site-specific alternate technology.

SEOs who wish to consider the SoilAir process to correct a failing absorption area should contact SoilAir of PA, Inc. at P.O. Box 835 Horsham, PA 19044. The telephone number is 215-443-9988.

Experimental Drip Micromound Systems: DEP has reached the limit of experimental drip irrigation micromound systems necessary for the evaluation of the drip micromound technology. In accordance with Chapter 73, Section 73.3(c), DEP classification of experimental drip micromound system designs will be suspended while system performance data is collected and evaluated. DEP will not accept any additional drip irrigation micromound system design proposals after December 1, 2006. Only those drip micromound system designs classified as experimental by this office may be permitted



and installed. Any other permitting of drip irrigation micromound systems will be in violation of the regulations.

As stated in the DEP experimental design classification letters sent to the permitting SEO, performance data for the experimental drip irrigation micromound systems is to be submitted to DEP and to the local agency. This data will be evaluated to determine if the experiment is successful. If deemed successful, DEP will classify the drip irrigation micromound system as an alternate onlot sewage treatment system and add it to the *Alternate Systems Guidance*.

We anticipate that the collection and evaluation of performance data may take up to two years. However, the process may take considerably less time depending upon the results of the sampling, the quantity of data received, and the consistency of the sampling results across installations.

SEOs who have permitted these experimental micromound systems should be diligent in assuring the required performance monitoring is conducted in a timely manner. Insufficient or untimely data will result in unnecessarily delaying the conclusion of the experiment and, consequently, the further application of this technology in Pennsylvania.

Need funding suggestions for someone with an onlot malfunction repair? Don't forget to checkout the PennVest program for low interest loans to homeowners. For more information, including application instructions, visit the PennVest website at www.pennvest.state.pa.us, select "Financial Assistance," and then "On-Lot Sewage Disposal Funds."

If you have questions about any of the topics in this letter, please feel free to contact us at the telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,



Dana K. Aunkst
Chief

Division of Planning and Permits