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Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulation

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To All Sewage Enforcement Officers:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a number of personnel changes within the Division of Planning and Permits, Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulation, to address the permitting status of certain technologies being marketed in Pennsylvania, to update you on the availability of draft Act 537 program documents and to provide a status for currently underway experimental initiatives.

Personnel Changes: As some of you may know, there are a number of recent changes in the Central Office staff.

Mr. John Diehl, PG is the new Chief of the Act 537 Management Section. John comes from the Facilities Permits Section where, as a geologist, he was engaged in developing guidance and regulations for the public drinking water supply community.

Ms. Gretchen Siy left DEP for a position in another department. Gretchen was instrumental in our experimental program and her departure has had an impact in that area. Your patience is requested in all matters involving experimental technology until such time as the vacant position can be filled. Please do not hesitate to contact Central Office if you have a situation requiring immediate attention.

Revised Planning Form: Recently the Component 3s Planning Module for Small Flow Treatment Facilities was revised to reflect a recently finalized guidance document that addresses dry stream discharges. Other administrative revisions were made at the same time, one of which impacts SEO responsibilities in a minor way. As part of the planning process Chapter 71, Section 71.64 (c)(i) has always required documentation that soils are not suitable for installation of an onlot system. Unfortunately, the old form did not adequately provide for this requirement. The new version of Component 3s now contains a signature area for the local agency SEO to indicate that the soil unsuitability criteria are satisfied. DEP's intention is to continue to accept those old version forms that are already in the municipal planning pipeline as of the revision date of the new form, but to ultimately require the new forms.

Draft Regulation and Guidance Update: The draft "*Site Suitability and Alternative Analysis Guidelines for New Land Development Proposing Onlot Sewage Disposal*" was published for public comment this spring and a comment and response document is presently being prepared. The draft "*Sewage Management Activities*" and draft "*Alternate Systems Guidance (ASG)*" are finishing the development stage and, upon executive authorization, will be published in the PA Bulletin for public comments. The Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) provided comments concerning the drafts of Chapter 72a and Chapter 73a. DEP is in the process of reviewing and revising these documents in consideration of those comments.



Alternate Technology Update: In a letter dated January 29, 2008, the Department classified the propriety drip irrigation system ACT WFS that is marked by ACT Filtration Systems, 1516 Shiloh Ave., Bryan, TX 77803 as an alternate technology under listing #12 in the DEP *Alternate Systems Guidance* (ASG). This system, as sold, consists of a NSF Standard-40 aerobic treatment tank, controller unit, inline disk filter and drip distribution tubing. The ACT WFS system is functionally similar to, and includes specific components similar to those used in drip distribution systems and products already classified as alternate technology and included in the ASG Listing #12, Drip Irrigation System. The specifications of ASG Listing #12 apply to this technology.

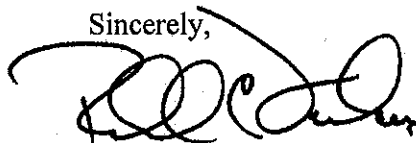
Experimental Program Update:

Orenco AdvanTex AX20: No change to current status since my last All SEO Letter. Orenco Systems, Inc. is currently the only participant in the TVP. The Orenco AdvanTex AX20 unit is being field tested to evaluate both its advanced treatment and nitrogen removal capabilities. It is anticipated that sampling will be complete in Summer 2008 with an NSF report to follow. (Keep in mind that the Orenco AdvanTex AX20 unit is NSF Standard 40 certified and may currently be used as an aerobic treatment tank, in accordance with Chapter 73, Section 73.32.)

Micromound: Compliance with the monitoring requirements for this technology continues to be a problem. To date, an insufficient amount of data has been submitted to make any informed decision concerning the long term acceptability of this technology. Therefore, data gathering continues. The assistance of those SEOs who permitted these experimental micromound systems is needed to ensure that the required monthly sampling is being performed so that a determination may be made on the future use of drip micromound technology in Pennsylvania.

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

Sincerely,



Ronald C. Furlan, P.E.
Environmental Program Manager
Division of Planning and Permits

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File: 20.6.7
30-Day File

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