

**INNOVATIVE/ALTERNATIVE SEWAGE DISPOSAL TECHNOLOGIES
TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)**

July 8, 2005 Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

Attendees:

TRC Members: Noel Berg, Dave Burnham, Joe Frisella, Sue Licardi, George Loomis (arrived approx. 10:00 AM, just after FAST discussion), Tim Stasiunas, Russ Chateauneuf and Ken Anderson

Others: Brian Moore and Deb Knauss RIDEM

Russ called the meeting to order about 8:15.

Materials distributed:

- Minutes of 6/8/05**
- Correspondence – dated May 26, 2005 David Kalen to G. Timothy Cranston, North Kingstown Water Quality Specialist RE: FAST**
- Correspondence dated June 21, 2005 from Russ to Allison Blodig**
- E-mail exchange Allison Blodig and Russ dated June 21, 2005, June 22, 2005 and June 24, 2005**
- Correspondence dated July 30, 2004 from Allison Blodig to Russ**
- Correspondence dated June 13, 2005 from Jim Dunlap of J & R Sales and Service Re: Service Responsibility**
- Certification issued to FAST**

· Correspondence dated April 10, 2003 from Kelvin Fernandez to Russ, detailing his experiences with a FAST system at his home

Minutes: All members present (Noel Berg, Dave Burnham, Joe Frisella, Sue Licardi, Tim Stasiunas, Russ Chateaufneuf and Ken Anderson) voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Biomicrobics

A series of questions were posed to Alison Blodig seeking answers and clarification to the issues raised at the meeting June 8th. She was unable to attend this meeting, as additional time was needed to prepare a comprehensive response.

Correspondence dated June 13, 2005 from Jim Dunlap in which he enumerates issues which were discussed at the June 8th meeting was distributed. Among the issues addressed is the requirement that a two-year maintenance contract be sold to a homeowner prior to release of the product. He reports that this is a requirement of the NSF certification Bio-Microbics received for the FAST System.

The RI requirement is that the technology must meet the NSF standard 40 (30:30) but not that they maintain the NSF Certification.

There was discussion regarding Orenco's training program for installation and service and the likelihood that J& R does not want to relinquish their lock on the initial two-year contracts.

Tim reported on a system he installed as a repair in September 2004. J & R is required to service the system two times a year; to-date they have not been to this system. Tim performed start-up since the system is installed at an existing home.

There was some discussion of whether J & R's practice generates a rapport between the service provider and the homeowner, because they are engaged in a service contract from the beginning of their use of the system. The disconnect, however is that the system is generally purchased by a contractor who obtains the contract information and payment from the homeowner and provides this to the vendor for release of the equipment. Tim frequently receives calls from homeowners about their systems, because they know him; they don't know the service provider.

Additional discussion was generated by the issue of how may the first contract be obtained other than the method employed by J & R. It was suggested that the installer could facilitate a contract and provide that to the vendor. The necessity of O & M for the whole treatment train was acknowledged and it was agreed that the certification should require that service be provided to the whole treatment train.

Russ was asked if there have been any complaints about other service providers. He stated that there have not been any complaints

in a while, including J & R not servicing systems.

Clarification must be sought from Jim Dunlap concerning this issue, because it is neither a DEM nor TRC requirement that they provide the first two-year service contract. Russ asked the group if anyone would object if

J & R incorporates first two-year O & M contract in the purchase price and Bio-Microbics is supportive of this practice. Tim requested to reserve judgment until Bio-Microbics speaks to the issue directly.

There was some discussion of the issue of terminated and non-renewed contracts. It was suggested that they could be followed up with a form letter inquiring why the contract was cancelled or not renewed, whether there was dissatisfaction with the service provider and asking if the homeowner needs help locating another service provider.

Sue asked if she could be provided with the addresses of non-renewed contracts.

There was some discussion of the apparent disparity between designers' practices communicating to the homeowner the issues of aesthetics and design and operation costs associated with I & A systems, and designers responsibility for these activities, as specified in the Guidance to Designers.

There was some discussion of correspondence from David Kalen to G. Timothy Cranston, North Kingstown Water Quality Specialist, addressing use of the FAST treatment system for a specific address near Wickford Harbor. In the letter David states that FAST is not recommended for use in seasonally occupied homes. The manufacturer has stated that the system will work on seasonal installations. Clarification will be sought from Allison Blodig when she attends a TRC meeting, of exactly what the company's position is on the issue of seasonal use and the system's treatment performance when used for seasonally occupied residences. Sue reported that the reason for the correspondence from David Kalen, is that the project is submitted under a grant program and URI's approval of the proposal is required before she may issue the check.

It was suggested that Allison could be contacted and told that the TRC wants to see performance data on start-up for seasonal use residences. It was also recommended that seasonal be defined, three months occupancy as opposed to weekends only, which would likely never denitrify.

Ken Anderson suggested that the I & A Technology Program might be modified by requiring the applicant to address the issues of start-up and seasonal use impacts as part of an application, and perhaps require intense sampling and testing for seasonal uses if a particular concern exist.

Russ mentioned that the fact that it is department practice, generally, to not allow permitting of purely seasonal uses because experience has shown that seasonal use permits are difficult, if not impossible, to effectively enforce. Essentially, one needs to physically observe a premises to establish whether use is actually occurring or not which can be exceedingly time-consuming. To make issue of seasonal uses would seem to require that the department reverse policy and distinguish between year-round and seasonal uses during permitting. Most applicants would likely claim the more unrestricted year-round use anyway, especially if additional requirements or prohibitions apply for seasonal uses, which would create significant enforcement issues.

Advantex

Occupancy / seasonal use – while these systems may not achieve peak performance, the residence is used so infrequently, that the loading is low

Timing of the sampling: should we require some more intense sampling to determine how long it takes the system to being to denitrify?

Joe Frisella suggested that the Department ask Orenco to provide the results of testing provided by George Loomis on the Advantex units the University is monitoring.

Bioclere

A draft certification was issued last year and the technical manuals (residential and commercial) were recently submitted. If the manual

is acceptable, the final certification will be issued for nitrogen reduction with no flow restrictions.

Biocycle

Joe reported that the two systems installed in RI are no longer being serviced. Additionally, the technology (or company?) was sold to a company which neglected to follow-up with the NSF certification, which was a condition of the certification issued in RI. The potential necessity of revoking the Biocycle certification was discussed. Joe made a motion to revoke the certification if a responsible vendor and service provider is not identified to the TRC. Ken seconded the motion; there was no additional discussion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Nitrex

Pio Lombardo responded in writing to the TRC comments from last year regarding tank specifications and BOD spiking; this correspondence was distributed. There was some discussion of the correspondence, of the useful life of the media, and what is involved in replacement. There was also some discussion of the element of the Class II approval requiring an approval in another jurisdiction. At present, it is believed the approval held by Nitrex in MA is still under the piloting program. With consideration that the piloting approval in MA is similar to our experimental application, we cannot accept this as satisfying the requirement for an approval in another jurisdiction. If Pio is currently approved or seeking a provisional approval, he

should be invited to the meeting after next, anticipated to be sometime in September. Ken had some questions about the five types of filters and when to use each, and about the specifications for the wood chips, size, type.

There were some additional issues on which committee members generated additional questions, such as how is the sand prevented from migrating down into the chips, the requirement for annual monitoring which was stated to be \$880 for the first year and then \$220 annually, the issue of BOD impacts on sand filters, and consideration that perhaps use of BSFs could be prohibited with the Nitrex filters.

There was discussion of the similarities between the Nitrex Filter and the research Scott Nixon is doing with wood chip filled trenches in the area of the (salt-ponds/beaches?) for removal of nitrogen. There have been some initially encouraging results generated by these trenches.

Cesspool Phase Out Bill

Russ informed the group that it is unlikely that a bill will make it through the assembly this season.

Other

- Repair Permit Activity - DEM will look at repair permit activity for the last year and see if there is a recognizable trend by town, showing an

increase in repair permits in areas where wastewater management districts have been implemented. Perhaps also a reduction in activity in Warwick due to the availability of sewers may be observed.

· OWT Training/Realtors – There are classes at the Training Center geared specifically toward realtors. It has been concluded by the real estate community that such training should be mandatory for Realtors working in unsewered areas. The curriculum is currently under review by the Association of Realtors for CEUs.

· OWT Training/New Design Classes – The OWT has added a couple of new classes this year, Autocalcs, which instructs attendees to use spreadsheet programs for pump calculations and for BSF sizing; a second offering of this class has been added and a class on Regulatory Buffers will be run in the fall.

Next Meeting

Next meeting was scheduled for August 26, 2005 from 8:00 to Noon at the Warwick Sewer Authority.