

The
ALTERNATIVE/EXPERIMENTAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES
TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

The meeting was held at
Quonset Development Corporation Annex
95 Cripe Street
North Kingstown, RI
December 4, 2015
Approved Minutes

Present: Nikki Andrews, Jim Boyd, Brian Moore, Susan Licardi, and George Loomis

Absent: David Dow, Tim Stasiunas and Dennis Vinhatiero

Others Present: Peter Ogle, Charlestown Wastewater Management Commission and Deb Knauss (DEM)

Call to Order: 8:45 AM

Materials Distributed:

- Draft Agenda for this meeting
- Draft Minutes of 10/27/15 meeting
- Roth Global Plastics, Inc. Application for Monster D-box
- Consistency between DEM-approved official manuals and manuals distributed by vendors and distributors
- Permitting statistics summaries for systems approved under 37.4.2(B)(i)
- Technology Program update

Review of Draft Minutes of October 27, 2015

Minutes were reviewed, no corrections, or revisions requested.

Motion: Susan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Nikki seconded the motion

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: All present voted in favor of the motion.

OWTS Rules Update

The Rules are being revised to address the following:

- The extension of permit expiration date tolling for an additional year.
- The sunset on the exemption from an OWTS permit for 600 square-foot additions.
- Elimination of the percolation test
- Conditions under which a soil evaluation is required

The Freshwater Wetland Rules are also being revised with special focus on clarity and description of process. Stakeholder meetings are underway, with staff meetings in between to address contribution from the stakeholder meetings.

Roth Global Plastics, Inc. Application for Monster D-box

Everyone had read the application, so no introduction was required. Ease of installation and leveling and the ability to easily provide access at-grade were recognized as advantages associated with this d-box.

There was concern about the box not being rated for vehicular traffic, so care would have to be taken to ensure that no vehicles travel over the box during and after construction. Deb suggested that all installations could be required to provide at-grade access, since this is easily accommodated with this unit. The group supported this suggestion, stating the benefit of being able to see the location of the d-box, easily open it, evaluate the contents for solids carryover and see the direction of the piping to the field.

Ports and fittings should be sealed with a sealant compatible with the material of which the box is manufactured.

Motion: Nikki made a motion to recommend approval of the d-box, requiring the sealing of openings for water tightness with a sealant compatible with the material of which the d-box is manufactured, all design plans must specify no vehicular traffic over the d-box and all installations' are required to have access at-grade.

Second: Susan seconded the motion

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: All present voted in favor of the motion.

Consistency between DEM-approved official manuals and manuals distributed by vendors and distributors

There have been instances where DEM plan reviewers are using a different version of a technology manual than the designer whose plan they are reviewing because manual revisions were made of which DEM is unaware. To prevent this from happening

Deb proposed requiring the final DEM version of all manuals to be submitted as electronic file. A link to each of these would be added to the list of approved technologies. Each manual would be required to have a footer on every page with the manual's issue date. The group agreed that it is important that manual revisions be reviewed and approved by DEM and that making them available through the DEM website seemed like a suitable way to manage the issue.

Permitting statistics summary for systems approved under 37.4.2(B)(i)

Performance data are not being submitted. Sampling might be in progress with the Vendors holding data for semiannual submission according to the terms of the monitoring protocol. If the systems are not meeting the performance standard, we would like to know as soon as the observation is available. It was suggested that the submission requirement be revised to require that the data be submitted as soon as the results are available. Brian stated that DEM is going to ask vendors to submit all the performance results obtained to-date by the end of the year, with an explanation of why the system enrollment minimum has not been met.

The group expressed frustration at the vendors' failure to comply with the performance-documenting phase of these systems' Rule 37.4.2(B)(i) approvals, especially with consideration of DEM's patience and individualized attention to each vendor in meetings last winter.

BioBarrier is the fourth nitrogen removal system to be approved under this Rule.

University of Rhode Island's Optimizing Performance of Existing Onsite Wastewater Treatment Project

Monthly sampling continues and meetings will be scheduled in the near future with vendors and service providers to review the findings.

AE Program Update

Deb explained that she emailed the vendors and distributors of all treatment systems explaining that documentation of a recorded O&M agreement is required for start-up of all systems. For recipients who had previously received this notification specific to their systems approved under Rule 37.4.2(B)(i), it was explained that this is being extended to apply to all treatment systems. She also included information on renewal in the email sent to a couple of vendor whose approvals have been expired for a long time.

Deb distributed a list of technologies (not component approvals for d-boxes, filters, chambers, etc.) with approval class, TN treatment objective where applicable, approval status, indicating if required reporting has been submitted and providing brief notes where applicable.

Large System Update

Brian reported that they are still working on large system reporting and performance compliance. Nearly all of the systems are now compliant with the quarterly reporting requirement. Residential strength systems' treatment performance is meeting the standards, Systems with commercial waste strength are not.

Other

Deb received confirmation from the legal office that the prohibition in the Open Meetings Act to meet remotely, applies to advisory bodies such as the TRC.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The group decided to try meet in January to review data submitted under the Monitoring Protocol for N-removal systems. Deb will develop a Doodle poll with some dates and email the link to the group.

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 10:25.