

GEORGIA

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On-site Sewage Management Systems
Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Resources
Chapter 290-5-26
May 15, 2001

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/environmental/290-5-26.pdf>

Onsite regulations for Georgia were last updated in March 2001. As of June 1, 2006 Georgia's regulations were not under revision and there are no plans for revision.

The State of Georgia follows performance based codes for aerobic treatment systems, bio-peat systems, and recirculating filters. Technologies approved for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal in Georgia include alternative aggregate systems (e.g., tire chips and polystyrene), chamber systems, gravelless systems, peat filters, drip systems, and mounds. Those technologies not listed require review through the Technical Review Committee for approval as an alternative or experimental system.

Georgia's code recognizes management programs/contracts to monitor and maintain Advanced Treatment Systems. Georgia Code requires three-year maintenance contracts and an operation and maintenance plan for aerobic treatment units (ATUs) designed for 2,000 gallons per day or more, including a service visit every six (6) months during this period. The Department's regulations require aerobic treatment units to provide continued monitoring and maintenance after the initial three-year period. The company must provide quarterly maintenance reports to the Department of Human Resources and the county board of health. Existing management programs currently in operation in the

State of Georgia are Douglas County, Georgia and Berkeley Lake, Georgia. For information on these programs, contact Mr. Uhlich or Mr. Harless.

The State of Georgia requires onsite professionals to be certified. Soil Scientists, Installers, Pumpers, County Environmental Health Specialists are listed as certified onsite professionals. These certifications are renewable every 2 years and are based on continuing education. In the State of Georgia, County Environmental Health Specialist – Level II certification are responsible for conducting site evaluations before an onsite system is installed.

In the State of Georgia an applicant may request an existing system evaluation by the county health department. Recommended protocols are found in the department's technical manual for onsite sewage management systems. The State does not require regular inspections for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems after initial construction but does for advanced treatment systems. However, the use of septic tank effluent filters is required for onsite systems. Inspectors are certified by a state testing program that has been established and requires continuing education for recertification. The county environmental health specialist conducts site evaluations for permitting. However a soil evaluation report from a certified soil scientist must be submitted with the site evaluation application. Fees are established locally through the county boards of health and county government.

Permits are issued for new construction, repair of existing systems, and for upgrade modification within the State of Georgia. These permits are issued at the county level, however the state keeps track of all issued permits. For information on permits please contact:

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No funding programs exist to assist homeowners repairing or replacing failing systems or installing new systems. Neither are there programs that offer homeowners insurance policies for their onsite systems.

For information about onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects being conducted in the State of Georgia contact:

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