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[http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/
rules/idapa58/0103.pdf](http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/rules/idapa58/0103.pdf)



Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules
IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 03
July 1993

<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa58/0103.pdf>

Technical Guidance Manual
for Individual and Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems
January 27, 2000

As of June 1, 2006 there were no revisions taking place. There are no plans at this time to revise the current rules.

Idaho follows a prescriptive code for siting, sizing, and configuring Standard Septic Systems. The definition of a Standard Septic System addresses only a septic tank, (primary clarifier), and drainfield.

Fortunately, Idaho Rule has established a Technical Guidance Committee (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.07) that is charged with developing and maintaining a Technical Guidance Manual (TGM) which “shall provide state-of-the-art technical guidance on alternative sewage disposal components and systems, soil type determination methodology and other information pertinent to the best management practices of individual and subsurface sewage disposal. (10-1-90)” (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.09)

Finally, Idaho Rule also defines Alternative System: “If a standard system as described in these rules cannot be installed on a parcel of land, an alternative system may be permitted if that system is in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Guidance Committee and is approved by the Director. (5-7-90)” (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.10).

In the TGM, performance based criteria exists for the Extended Treatment Package Systems (ETPS), which most people refer to as Advanced Treatment Units (ATU). Fundamentally, a miniature Wastewater Treatment Plant for individual home use. The Alternative Treatment section of the TGM is enforceable as Rule. Idaho currently requires these systems to perform to the generally accepted BOD₅/TSS discharge level of 30 /30 ppm. In areas of concern (shallow groundwater, insufficient soil separation to bedrock, in nitrate priority areas, etc.) total nitrogen (TN) may also be limited in the installation permit. The level of TN discharged is addressed in another guidance document called the Nutrient – Pathogen (NP) Evaluation.

Unlisted technology may be submitted to the TGC for evaluation and inclusion in the TGM, but this only addresses technology intended to be used as an individual onsite system. If the technology is to be used on Cluster Systems (Decentralized Community WW Systems), then an engineering evaluation with supporting documentation should be submitted with the Engineering Report and Plans & Specifications for the development. These documents would then be evaluated by DEQ engineering staff, authorized by Statute 39-118, to obtain assurances that the system as designed at least meets the state’s minimum requirements. Pilot Tests would be required on the installation prior to lifting sanitary restrictions.

The State of Idaho does recognize management programs/contracts or management districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual septic dispersal systems. All Cluster Systems employing advanced technology are required to provide a contracted service provider. Even simple Large Soil Absorption Systems (LSAS), pressure dosing of wastewater flows from 2,500 gpd to 10,000 gpd, are required to contract with at least a level 1 Wastewater Operator. A level 1 operator is required to maintain the pressurization system, but most of these Cluster Systems contract with a level 3, or possibly a level 4 operator. These operators are qualified to maintain the most advanced technologies including membrane filters, up-flow sand filters, and continuous flow UV disinfection systems. These service contracts typically are given to small companies that maintain multiple large systems, and have personnel strategically located within a short time of travel of each system.

All individual onsite wastewater systems that are manufactured and transported to the service site are required to be maintained by a contracted service provider. These systems are technologically advanced, and have differing configurations (i.e. Orenco Advantex; BioMicrobic FAST; Norweco Singulair; Jet BAT, Nyadic, Delta Whitewater, etc.). Consequently, DEQ has cause to form Non-Profit Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Corporations that each property owner must join upon purchasing one of these ATUs. The homeowner pays a yearly membership due, and the O&M contracts with the service provider to not only maintain these systems, but also to analyze samples and submit

results to the O&M Corporation. The O&M Corporation must then provide this information to DEQ and the Health Districts in their annual report. Individual sites that are discharging effluent in excess of their installation permit maximums are flagged for additional maintenance and sampling.

For additional information on existing management programs currently in operation in the State of Idaho please contact:

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The State requires onsite professionals to be licensed. Multiple certifications are required depending upon the activity undertaken. For the simplest systems, a Basic Installers License is required. For Complex Systems, a Complex License is required. Each of these licenses are renewable annually, and every third year the licensee must attend an 8-hour training course. Design of Cluster Systems and LSAS must be performed and documented by a Professional Engineer licensed in Idaho. Maintenance for individual onsite wastewater ATUs must be performed by a service provider who is knowledgeable and/or trained in the particular manufacturer's product. Finally, any Cluster System must contract with a suitably licensed Wastewater Operator.

In the State of Idaho, a site evaluation is conducted before an onsite system is installed. The DEQ has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the seven Health Districts to execute the Onsite Wastewater Program. The Health District's Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) perform site evaluations, system installation inspections, permit writing, fee assessment and collection, and annual report review. Idaho characterizes the soils during the site evaluation. The EHS performs this service, with the State Onsite Coordinator providing support for questionable or difficult determinations. Idaho no longer accepts percolation tests due to the variability in their execution.

The Health District's collect a site evaluation fee. The installer coordinates with the EHS concerning time and date. At the selected time and date, the installer has excavated a suitable test pit for the EHS to observe, takes soil samples (if necessary), and makes a determination on soil depth, depth to groundwater or bedrock. Additionally, the EHS will determine whether appropriate separations distances are present between surface water, well casings, foundations, etc.

DEQ provides a liaison to support the Health Districts' efforts, provide Rule interpretation, support annual installer training, and other activities, up to and including legal action. The Health District performs the inspection. A fee is charged to cover the expenses associated with sending the EHS to the site to evaluate the soils, distance to surface and ground water, and other site attributes.

Regular inspections are not required by the state for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems after initial construction. Inspection requests by the homeowner are highly unusual in Idaho. Often, the homeowner's question is, "Where is my septic tank?" Records are reviewed and copies of inspections provided to the homeowner. No charges are made for this service. A property owner could pay for a site evaluation and have the local district health department come on site to offer assistance, or pay the pumper to locate the septic tank using transponders, snakes, or soil probes. Any inspector must be certified however.

The Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) is responsible for issuing permits for new construction, repair of existing system, or upgrade or modification; however, they do not keep track of them. Experimental systems are required to have an approved alternative design available should the experimental system fail. Variances are required to be issued. Owners must hold the state harmless should the system fail. Idaho uses soil characterization for determining soil type and application rates, percolation tests are not used. Soil classification has been the chosen method for site evaluations since 1985.

The Idaho DEQ promulgates the rules and through a Memorandum of Understanding that delegates the day to day activities to the seven District Health Departments for Implementation. The rules establish criteria for the construction of standard septic tanks and drainfields. The rules are interpreted by a Technical Guidance Committee (TGC) and the Committee is mandated to develop a state of the art Technical Guidance Manual (TGM). All alternative designs are approved by the DEQ at the recommendation of the TGC and are kept in the TGM.

For a list of technologies that are approved for use in Idaho, see the Technical Guidance Manual for Individual and Subsurface Sewage Disposal (TGM) at:

http://www2.state.id.us/deq/waste/tgm_sewage.htm

The Experimental System Section of the TGM lists the protocol for use of technology(ies) not listed in the current state code.

No funding program or mechanism exists to assist homeowners replacing failing systems or installing new systems, and there are no plans to develop one within the next year. Currently, there are no counties or communities within the state that have a SRF or other financial assistance program for individual homeowners.

In Idaho the State Onsite Coordinator assists the Health Districts in periodically training the Basic and Complex system installers. This is typically an 8-hour training session that they must attend once every three years. For more information, please contact Mr. Maupin at the address listed above. The Hayden Wastewater Research Facility (HWRF) is currently evaluating Blue Water Technologies' phosphorus removal process, Blue Pro[®]. This technology is modular and lends itself to being scaled up or down to the appropriate size.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.engr.uidaho.edu/bluepro2006/>

http://www.insuite.net/uploads/139/documents/Docs/HWRF2Page_090304.pdf