



NEW MEXICO

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<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/>

Liquid Waste Disposal Regulations

20.7.3 NMAC

September 1, 2005

http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/NMED_regs/dwcsb/20nmac7_3.html

Onsite regulations for New Mexico were last updated in September 2005. The State is currently accepting comments/suggestions for revisions. Changes are being generated by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) employees and interested citizens. Changes may become effective later this year. The regulation program is implemented by the state in all counties in New Mexico except for Bernalillo County, which has adopted their own ordinance. All rules apply statewide and can become more stringent on the local level if approved by the state, as was the case for Bernalillo County.

The State of New Mexico follows performance based codes for advanced treatment systems, but not for conventional septic systems. Any technology not listed within the state code follows the following protocol for such usage:

All treatment units must be reviewed. Conventional septic tanks are reviewed by the program engineer. Advanced treatment products, including proprietary drainfield products are reviewed by the technical advisory committee, who makes recommendations for approval, disapproval, or testing.

New Mexico Code does recognize and require management contracts or districts to monitor and maintain all advanced treatment systems. In addition, a couple of villages have formed management districts.

The State of New Mexico does not require onsite professionals to be certified, but our regulations require a certification program to be in place by July 1, 2007. Maintenance providers for advanced treatment units must be certified by the manufacturer. After July 1, 2007, these certifications will be renewable.

In the State of New Mexico, before an onsite system is installed, the contractor evaluates the site, and if there are questions about any aspect, a NMED environmentalist, or liquid waste specialist may also do an evaluation inspection. New Mexico code requires soil analysis, according to USDA profiling as part of the site evaluation. If an inspection is requested by the homeowner, the inspection will be performed by a NAWT Certified Inspector until New Mexico's certification program is in place. State regulations also require an inspection at the time of ownership transfer.

Permits are issued for new construction, repair of an existing system, or for the upgrade/modification of that system. The State keeps track of all permits issued. For alternative/experimental/innovative technologies the technology must be reviewed by the tech committee, and permits are issued on a limited basis. All such information is kept in a central database, except for information that resides in paper files that have not been entered into the database. Reports of this nature are not currently available, but may be in the future after the database upgrade is complete.

No funding program exists at the state level to assist individual homeowners with either repairing or replacing failing systems or installing new systems.

For any possible funding questions, please contact:

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Bernalillo County provides a revolving fund to assist individual homeowners. For more information contact:

Bernalillo County
Environmental Health
111 Union Square SE
Albuquerque, **New Mexico** 87102

Any information regarding training programs, onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects that are ongoing in the state contact:

Dr. Adrian Hanson, P.E., Associate Professor
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