4.5 Capping Fill Trench

Revision: April 21, 2000

4.5.1 Description

A capping fill trench is a standard drainfield trench constructed so that its bottom is at least 3 inches into the natural soil but less than 2 feet deep in the natural soil. A selected fill material caps the trench to provide cover.

4.5.2 Approval Conditions

1. Capping fill trench may be considered for a site if the effective depth below the trench bottom, as specified in section 2.2, Table 2-6 and Table 2-7, can be met.
2. Site may not exceed 12% slope if the drainrock extends above natural soil. If the drainrock is at or below natural soil, the site may not exceed 20% slope.
3. Bottom of a capping fill trench must be below the organic soil layer.

4.5.3 Fill Material

The site soil must be one of the approved effective soil groups. The texture of the fill material shall be the same as or one soil group finer than that of the site material, except that no fill material finer than clay loam may be used. Fill shall be free of debris, stones, frozen clods, or ice.

4.5.4 Construction

1. Fill area is plowed or scarified to disrupt the vegetative mat. Smearing shall be avoided.
2. Trenches shall be installed according to the specifications outlined on the permit, as if the top of the fill was the natural soil surface.
3. If the trenches are constructed entirely within the natural soil, the trenches will be constructed first. The site will then be scarified, and the cap installed after the trenches are in place.
4. When the invert of the pipe is at or above the original soil, the fill material should be compacted to 90% of the existing soils.
5. Edges of the finished fill should be at least 10 feet beyond the nearest trench sidewall.
6. Finished side slopes of the fill are to be evenly graded from the outer edges of the trenches to the natural soil surface with a slope of 3:1 or less (three horizontal to one vertical).
7. Compaction of the scarified area must be prevented. Use of equipment with pneumatic tires is prohibited on the fill or cover.
8. At least 12 inches of fill must be applied to cover the trenches.