

**Technical Guidance Committee
November 2, 2006
Final Meeting Minutes**

ATTENDEES:

AJ Maupin, Onsite Coordinator, DEQ Representative
Steve Pew, Southeast District Health, TGC Member
Bob Erickson, South Central District Health, TGC Member
Joe Canning, P.E., B&A Engineers, TGC Member
Ken Babin, Panhandle Health District, TGC Member
Belinda McFarland, DEQ Wastewater Admin. – Taking minutes

ABSENT:

Roger Albright, R.H. Albright Excavating

GUESTS:

Jay Holman, Infiltrator Systems Inc.
Steve Rule, Power Pump, Inc.
Kevin Sherman, P.E., Engineering Director, Quanics, Inc.
Mike Black, Blackwater, LLC.
Jim Donlin, Eljen Corp.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am November 02, 2006. A sign in sheet was presented for the Committee and guests to sign in. The guests were asked to sign in and indicate if they had comments to present to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- o April 2005 – Joe Canning moved that the committee accept the minutes. Steve Pew seconded the motion and the committee voted in favor of accepting the 4/19/2005 TGC minutes as final.
- o November 2005 – Minutes were posted end of October – Minute approval postponed until next meeting to grant TGC members opportunity to review.

AJ Maupin comment/request concerning DEQ Website - lower right hand quadrant of the screen there is a rectangular box to log into an automatic e-mail notification system. You would be notified of anything that is posted whether it is the minutes, public comment request, updates, etc. Please sign up. Water Quality – Wastewater - Subsurface....

PRELIMINARY PRODUCTS REVIEW:

Elgin: denied drain field reduction request for the Geotextile Sand Filter (GSF) product. Partially due (1) to bed configuration of installation, (2) existing specifications for intermittent sand filters that this product significantly parallels, (3) lack of pressurized distribution as required for intermittent sand filters and (4) parallels with in-trench sand filter configuration.

EZ flow: approved the EZ flow product that employs an integral geotextile to keep soil from filling the voids between the polystyrene. The product will be identified by added the suffix 'GEO' to the product number. TGC recommends that this product be added as long as the product is installed with either a color-coded tape or ID stripe to make it easier to see that the product is installed correctly, with the geotextile up, in the trench.

Quanics: approve adding the Quanics Aero Cell and Bio-Coir products to the ETPS list after they establish a Non-Profit Operations & Maintenance Entity. Mike Black of Black Water, LLC was identified as the trained service provider. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws will have to be supplied to DEQ for review and records prior to submitting to the Secretary of State. The Aero Cell product will be listed as capable of providing TN at or below 16 mg/L, while the Bio-Coir product will be listed as capable of providing TN at or below 27 mg/L. The Quanics products require a preceding septic tank for proper operation. A pump vault will be required to deliver the effluent to the media. This will be clearly identified, along with the minimum tank volume, on the ETPS list.

Side Discussion on ETPS Program Structure: The Health District representative on the TGC voiced concerns about how the program was structured and executed. Three separate factors could contribute to potential failure: (1) home owner abuse of the system, (2) product malfunctions and (3) ineffective Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Entity and their contracted Service Provider. Concern was voiced if more ETP Systems are approved a method must be established to de-list those that have an unacceptable malfunction rate, regardless of the reason for malfunction. The Coordinator pointed out that the Rule states the wastewater generator is the responsible party. The TGC Health District representatives pointed out that this position puts the burden of enforcement back on the Districts and that they are not suitably staffed or funded. The Coordinator pointed out that DEQ does not request any funds be transferred to DEQ for this program and that the Districts set their own fee structure. The District representatives pointed out that this is a one-time fee for a program that requires continuing oversight. The Coordinator recognizes that fact and points out that he has recommended to the Water Quality Administrator that these systems be issued Operating Permits. Kevin Sherman, Quanics Inc., indicated that Florida requires Operating Permits at \$300 every two (2) years. Five (\$5) dollars of that pays for an electronic reporting system where the Service Providers have to submit each systems O&M records and monitoring results. Mr. Sherman pointed out that the time to establish that type of system is when the program is small. Florida is currently adding thousands of systems annually. Steve Rule, Power Pump Inc. (Orenco) proposed placing new systems in a probationary period. It was unknown whether either an Operating Permit or a probationary period could be accomplished without a Rule change. The Coordinator pointed out that some technologies have multiple O&M entities in the state and that placing the technology on probation pending individual O&M entity performance may be problematic. If one O&M functions well while another is not responsive to their clients' and system's needs what course of action would be available to return malfunctioning systems to proper operation. Currently, DEQ suspends an O&M if they have unacceptable malfunction rates and allows the technology to continue being installed in the other O&M entity's service area. The Coordinator acknowledges these issues and recommends that we discuss them in the future, but to maintain schedule we need to adhere to the agenda.

SeptiTech: approve adding the SeptiTech products, (M400, M550 & M750) to the ETPS list after they establish a Non-Profit Operations & Maintenance Entity and train service providers. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws will have to be supplied to DEQ for review and comment prior to submitting to the Secretary of State. The SeptiTech products require a preceding septic tank and an effluent filter for proper operation. This will be clearly identified, along with the minimum tank volume, on the ETPS list. SeptiTech will identify the maximum flow capacity for each of the three (3) products so that Permit Writers can properly evaluate whether the proposed system is sized properly for the house. These products will be listed as capable of providing TN at or below 16 mg/L. These products successfully completed the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) testing. ETV is a year long test, with nutrient reduction monitoring, as apposed to the National Sanitary Foundation's NSF Standard 40 testing, which is a six (6) month test and charges extra for nutrient reduction testing. SeptiTech requested drain field size reductions comparable to other ETP Systems. SeptiTech recommends that water

softener brine not be discharge to the system.

EcoJohn Sr.: Approved, will add this product to the current list of Incinerator Toilets.

MicroSeptech: Disapproved proposal for product sale in Idaho until Total Nitrogen reduction data can be supplied for review. Additionally, a Non-Profit Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Entity will have to be established with the necessary Articles of Incorporation filed with Idaho's Secretary of State. The new O&M should supply these Articles and any Bylaws to DEQ for our files. Furthermore, suitably trained service providers will have to be identified and their information provided to DEQ for inclusion on the O&M Entity listing available on the TGM website.

TGC POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

TGC member recommendation: Currently, the Onsite Coordinator receives reviews and approves septic tanks. A proposal is made to handle all NSF certified onsite wastewater products in a similar manner. This will allow the TGC to focus more time on policy. Along with that comes the question why we cannot open the TGM and find manufacturer phone numbers. Couldn't DEQ generate such a list and distribute it to the Health Districts? DEQ can't provide such a list to the public. The Onsite Coordinator will speak with the Administrator and the AG Office to see if DEQ can generate a list of manufacturer contacts and provide that to the Health Districts for their internal use. (Note: initial proposal for internal review of NSF approved products was not seconded nor voted on).

Terra Lifting: Terra Lifting was discussed a few years ago and the TGC determined at that time that it was a process rather than a product. This drain field repair process now inserts polystyrene beads into the soil to keep open the fractures in the biomat that provide preferential flow paths past the biomat. The pneumatic rods can penetrate over 4 feet into the ground in violation of the maximum drain field depth specified in Rule. Rule requires that a permit be issued to repair a failed system (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.05). The TGC does not recommend permitting this process based upon the fact that inspection of the final system configuration is not possible. Terra Lifting, while not an approved drain field alteration process, is determined to be a process and not a product and consequently does not qualify for DEQ review and approval per IDAPA 58.01.03.009.01.

Floor Drains: US EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program prohibits floor drains discharging to the subsurface for many commercial and industrial facilities. The UIC regulations exempt themselves from jurisdiction over domestic subsurface wastewater disposal systems. DEQ Rules prohibit discharging oil to subsurface drain fields. Some Health Districts require domestic floor drains be plumbed to oil/grease separators or holding tanks, but maintenance is often lacking. Some Health Districts direct builders to slope the garage floor to drain to the outside. If a floor drain discharges to an oil/grease separator, it should be discharged to the surface. The Health Districts should not permit subsurface dispersal of oil-bearing effluent (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.03) from a floor drain. DEQ recommends that floor drains in residential garages, which may possibly carry oils and other chemicals, be discharged to a Vegetated Swale, constructed per USEPA Best Management Practices (BMP), after going through an oil/grease separator. Alternatively, the garage floor may be sloped to flow liquids outside onto a vegetated surface.

Flood Plain & Subsurface system permitting: Health Districts currently have this issue under control typically based on whether the site has suitable vertical separation to ground water and acceptable horizontal separation to surface water. Conclusion: not an issue.

Project Phasing – System Modularization & LSAS definition: (1) LSAS ‘module’ definition to be placed into the new Definitions section of TGM. (2) Add table to Pressure Distribution Section correlating Soil Types, effluent volumes and drain field area requirements to clarify when pressure distribution first becomes required.

Non-Domestic Wastewater checklist & Impact on Issuing Permits: Insert the Non-Domestic Wastewater Checklist into the TGM as pages 20-2 through 20-7.

TGM Pressure Distribution Section: Modify this section to provide guidance on construction requirements and pump vault configurations, along with other pertinent information. Remove the design guidance.

Extended Treatment Package System Permit Requirements: Action granted to modify the ETPS section to place the requirement to file both the General Access Easement and the O&M Agreement with the county, preferably under one instrument number. This requirement should appear in the Conditions for Approval subsection of the ETPS section.

Trophy Home System Sizing: No action directed.

Drain field Sizing: No action required, will evaluate at next TGC meeting pending Infiltrator’s submittal, may delay until NSF gravelless product specification is released.

Wastewater Application Rate: (1) TGC directed moving the TGM Soil Classification Table into the Rule at the next Negotiated Rule Making. (2) TGC also directed clarification be added to bottom of Page 8 where it states “All other soil textures and some soil features (Gravel, Coarse sand, All Clays, Organic Muck, Claypan, Hardpan and Duripan) are unsuitable for installation of a standard drainfield system.”. The clarification should direct the installer and permit writer to find a suitable alternative drainfield configuration. Alternatives may include, but not be limited to In-Trench Sand Filters, Sand Mounds, and Lagoons ...

Next TGC Meeting: Establish via email for spring 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.