

Chapter 1. Introduction

To restore and maintain the quality of public waters and protect the public health and general welfare of Idaho’s residents and visitors, the Board of Environmental Quality adopted the “Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.03). Because of the dynamic and complex nature of small wastewater disposal systems governed by IDAPA 58.01.03, an ongoing technical guidance document is necessary. A Technical Guidance Committee (TGC) was mandated by the rule (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.07) to establish criteria for alternatives to standard drainfield systems. This Technical Guidance Manual (TGM) has been prepared to summarize the criteria and provide guidance to environmental health specialists, professional engineers, installers, homeowners, and others who need information on detailed design, construction, alteration, repair, and operation/maintenance of standard individual subsurface sewage disposal systems, components, and alternatives. Appendix A provides a glossary of terms.

1.1 Technical Guidance Committee

Revision: July 18, 2013

To provide the latest information for this manual, the TGC was established by the Board of Environmental Quality (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.07). The committee includes three environmental health specialists from Idaho health districts, a member of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a professional engineer licensed in the State of Idaho, and a permitted septic system installer. The preferred composition of environmental health specialists provided by the Idaho health districts is an Environmental Health Director, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Senior Environmental Health Specialist. All appointments are for 3-year terms, except for the DEQ appointment, which shall be permanently held by DEQ’s On-Site Wastewater Coordinator or equivalent. All sections of the TGM have been reviewed and approved by the TGC prior to inclusion herein (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.08).

1.2 Individual and Subsurface Sewage Disposal Coordinator

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DEQ provides an individual subsurface sewage disposal coordinator (On-Site Wastewater Coordinator) to assist in updating and maintaining the TGM in a timely manner, advise the TGC on the latest state-of-the-art on-site subsurface disposal methodologies and products, track changes in laws, and provide approvals for new subsurface sewage disposal products and components, Operation and Maintenance Entities, and any other subsurface sewage disposal-related issue. The coordinator also provides continuing education and technical support to those involved in subsurface sewage disposal system design, approval, installation, operation and maintenance, as well as the general public. In addition, the coordinator will provide periodic subsurface program audits of Idaho’s health districts for assistance in developing and ensuring statewide consistency in the individual subsurface sewage disposal program delivery.

1.3 Disclaimer

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The inclusion of a new alternative system technology in this manual does not imply that such technology will be approved for use. The TGM is provided solely for guidance if a particular alternative's implementation is desired.

Product listings do not constitute endorsement. Products not listed may be approved by the Director (IDAPA 58.01.03.009) if, after review, the product(s) are found to meet the regulatory intent of IDAPA 58.01.03. Product approval shall follow the process outlined in section 1.4.

1.4 Product Approval

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All commercially manufactured wastewater components must be approved by the Director prior to installation in a subsurface sewage disposal system (IDAPA 58.01.03.009.01). Plans, specifications, and any associated third party data (e.g., National Sanitary Foundation (NSF)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and United States Environmental Protection Agency's environmental technology verification testing) for commercially manufactured wastewater components must be submitted to DEQ's On-Site Wastewater Coordinator for approval. Plans and specifications required to be submitted for product approval includes (IDAPA 58.01.03.009.02):

- Detailed construction drawings
- Capacities (i.e., volume and/or flow)
- Structural calculations
- List of product materials
- Evidence of stability and durability
- Manufacturer's installation requirements
- Operation and maintenance instructions
- Any other information deemed necessary by the Director

Product submissions should be made by the product's manufacturer or an associated distributor. Products may be disapproved if the product is not in compliance or may not consistently function in compliance with the IDAPA 58.01.03 rules (IDAPA 58.01.03.009.04). Manufacturers or distributors will be notified in writing of product approval or disapproval. If a product is approved, the Director reserves the right to specify circumstances under which the component must be installed, used, operated, or maintained (IDAPA 58.01.03.009.03). Products approved for installation in subsurface sewage disposal systems are found in section 5.

1.4.1 Director's Policy on Product Approvals

The Director's policy on product approvals dictates that all approvals for subsurface sewage disposal products must be recommended to DEQ by the TGC in accordance with their given duties (IDAPA 58.01.303.004.08) and in compliance with IDAPA 58.01.03. The TGC may

develop product approval policies that shall be included within this section of the TGM. The TGC may delegate product review and approval to DEQ for specific products.

1.4.2 Technical Guidance Committee Product Approval Policies

Unless otherwise listed within this subsection of the TGM all submissions for product approvals shall follow the process outlined in section 1.4.

1.4.2.1 Septic Tank Approvals

All submissions for septic tank approvals shall be submitted to the DEQ On-Site Wastewater Coordinator and reviewed by DEQ's Wastewater Program Lead Engineer. Approvals shall be issued by DEQ and do not need to undergo TGC review.

1.4.2.2 All Other Product Approvals

All other wastewater products intended for installation in a subsurface sewage disposal system shall follow the process outlined in section 1.4 of this manual. If a product has been evaluated and meets a standard developed by NSF/ANSI, the product may be reviewed and approved for use by DEQ without TGC recommendation. For products that have not undergone NSF testing and certification, the necessary materials as described in section 1.4 must be submitted to DEQ for review by the TGC for approval recommendation.

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