

4.9 Experimental System

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4.9.1 Description

An experimental system includes an individual or subsurface sewage disposal system or component that has not been previously used in Idaho or one that requires field review before approval as an alternative system or subsurface sewage disposal system component.

4.9.2 Approval Conditions

1. If produced by a manufacturer, the experimental system should remain in the ownership of that manufacturer until approval of the system component has been provided as described by IDAPA 58.01.03.009 or section 1.4 of this manual.
2. All information required by IDAPA 58.01.03.009.02–03 regarding the system or component shall be provided to DEQ prior to subsurface sewage disposal permit issuance.
3. The manufacturer and property owner must hold DEQ and the health district harmless from any liability arising from use of the system.
4. A variance must be approved by DEQ as described in IDAPA 58.01.03.010 prior to permit issuance by the health district for the experimental system. The petition for variance should be submitted to DEQ's on-site wastewater coordinator. The subsurface sewage disposal permit application must be submitted to the health district where the experimental system is intended to be installed prior to submitting the petition for variance to DEQ.
5. The site for system or component installation must otherwise be acceptable for a standard system or approved alternative system.
6. The property owner must agree to replace the experimental system with a standard system or approved alternative system that meets the requirements of IDAPA 58.01.03 should DEQ or the health district determine that the system is a failing system (IDAPA 58.01.03.004.05).
7. Conditions for use of the system should be contained in the permit, including, if necessary, operation and maintenance requirements and conditions for abandonment (IDAPA 58.01.03.005.13 and 58.01.03.005.14).
8. It is recommended that the property owner or manufacturer secure a performance bond in the amount of the replacement system.

4.9.3 Design

1. The design of the system shall be provided by a PE licensed in Idaho, unless the design is a premanufactured and packaged system or component.

2. All components in contact with wastewater, effluent, or treated wastewater must be compatible with those waters. Such products should not decompose, dissolve, or otherwise contaminate processed waters at the point of discharge from the unit.
3. All components subject to wear or maintenance must be easily accessible and replaceable.

4.9.4 Construction

1. Installation instructions provided by the manufacturer should be used when installing the system.
2. Licensed public works contractors, plumbers, or electricians may be required to install respective components of experimental systems.

4.9.5 Operation and Maintenance

1. An O&M manual shall be provided by the system or component's design engineer or manufacturer to DEQ and the health district prior to permit issuance.
2. All operation and maintenance specified by the design engineer or manufacturer and DEQ or the health district shall be contained in the O&M manual and provided as part of the permit application (IDAPA 58.01.03.005.14).