

1.4.2.4 Proprietary Wastewater Treatment Product Approval Policy

Proprietary wastewater treatment products (PWTP) for subsurface sewage disposal are produced by a manufacturer to provide secondary wastewater treatment. The manufactured product must have functional design and treatment similarities to single-pass or recirculating media filters to be classified as a proprietary wastewater treatment product. Similarities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Products requiring mechanical components in excess of a single-pass or recirculating media filter or that may allow wastewater to pass through the system untreated by design will not be considered for proprietary approval.

Manufactured PWTPs must obtain an approval from DEQ prior to permitting and installation. To obtain approval the manufacturer must submit the required information listed in section 1.4 of this manual to DEQ's On-Site Wastewater Coordinator. In addition, to justify the effectiveness of wastewater treatment by the product the manufacturer must also submit the final evaluation report from NSF International on the product's evaluation under the provisions of NSF/ANSI Standard 40 or another equivalent third party standard. Equivalency of third party standards will be made by DEQ on a case-by-case basis. The NSF/ANSI Standard 40 report is required to obtain the same drainfield sizing reduction and separation distance reduction to limiting layers for the product as the intermittent sand filter or recirculating gravel filter. If the manufacturer would also like to obtain approval for total nitrogen (TN) reduction then they must also submit the final evaluation report from NSF International on the product's evaluation under the provisions of NSF/ANSI Standard 245 or another equivalent third part standard. Equivalency of third party standards will be made by DEQ on a case-by-case basis. The NSF/ANSI Standard 245 report is required to obtain the same TN reduction as the recirculating gravel filter.

Approval of PWTPs must be recommended to DEQ by the Technical Guidance Committee (TGC). Approval of a PWTP may be required to go through the same two-level approval process as extended treatment package systems (see section 1.4.2.2) depending on the system design and effluent reduction approvals sought. Approval processes and minimum installation requirements for PWTPs shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Technical Guidance Committee. PWTPs submitted for approval that have not been evaluated by NSF/ANSI under Standard 40 and/or 245 or another equivalent third party standard shall not be considered for reduction in drainfield disposal area or separation reductions to limiting layers. All approved PWTPs shall be installed by a permitted complex installer. Approved PWTPs are listed in section 5.14.

PWTPs may also require periodic operation and maintenance. The operation and maintenance provider for all PWTPs shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the TGC and may be a property owner or an approved service provider. If a PWTP is approved, permitted, and installed with a nitrogen reduction limit that exceeds the nitrogen reduction limit of a recirculating gravel filter, then the operation and maintenance provider for the PWTP shall be an approved service provider and the system shall follow the same operation, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting requirements as extended treatment package systems. If a nitrogen reduction limit is approved for a PWTP it shall be listed in section 5.13.