

On-Site Wastewater Technical Advisory Group

September 16, 2011
Kittitas County Courthouse
County Commissioners Chambers
Ellensburg, WA

Meeting Summary

MEETING ATTENDEES

Core Group Members Present

Peter Lombardi, L.D., Orenco
David Jensen, P.E., Jensen Engineering
Cindy Waite, Mason Co. Health
Eric Knopf, indigo Design, Inc.

Group Core Not Present

Bill Christman, P.E., Chelan Co. PUD
Keith Grellner, Kitsap Co. Health District
Robert Monetta, Windermere Real Estate-
Methow Valley
Brent Stenson, Adams County Health
Department

Guests

Steve Wecker, Onsite Consulting Services

DOH Staff

Richard Benson, P.E., LOSS
Lynn Schneider, LHSP Staff
Leslie Turner, LHSP Staff
John Eliasson, LHSP Supervisor

INTRODUCTION:

The meeting began at 9:40 AM on September 16, 2011.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Gravelless Distribution Products RS&G

The most significant change to this document was the addition of Pressure Distribution void space. The gravity onsite sewage system is based on a 12 inch depth: 6 inches of gravel below the 4 inch perforated pipe, covered by 2 inches of rock (then geotextile fabric and soil cover). Conversely, the Pressure Distribution onsite sewage system is based on a 9 inch depth: 6 inches of gravel below the lateral, approximately a 1 inch lateral, covered by 2 inches of rock (then geotextile fabric and soil cover).

The void space in a 3 foot wide pressure distribution trench has a net volume of approximately 2.24 ft³. A 3 foot wide gravity trench has a net volume of approximately 2.89 ft³. The gravel substitute must provide a minimum of 30% void space.

- Agreed to by general consensus to include the information on Pressure Distribution.

Sand Lined Trench Systems RS&G

The major discussion for this RS&G was the issue of when to require design by a professional engineer for an above ground bottomless sand filter containment vessel. If the filter bed containment vessel height is 48 inches or greater, a professional engineer must design the containment vessel as per the engineering WAC. Some local codes require a PE design for lower heights. The LHJ has the authority to require PE design if they deem it necessary. The local health officer is not qualified to review or inspect a containment vessel. This standard will also apply to the Intermittent Sand Filter RS&G.

Shall be removed: 3.12.6 (July 2009): “When a bed is permitted, two or more bottomless sand filters on the same downhill plane are not permitted if the total bed width exceeds the specified maximum bed width in Table 2, unless the distance between beds is so great that a curtain drain meeting all the required setbacks can be properly installed between the farthest extensions of the two beds.”

- Both points were agreed to by general consensus

Intermittent Sand Filter RS&G

Continued discussion: sizing the external pump tank. This will be decided via email amongst the TAG.

Figure 6 needs modifications to include actual measurements. Containment vessel requirements will be consistent with the Sand Lined Trench RS&G.

- Both points were agreed to by general consensus

Subsurface Drip Systems RS&G:

There were minor comments on this revision. The TAG may submit additional comments directly to DOH. Demand dosing versus timed dosing from an Intermittent Sand Filter was discussed

- The general consensus is that it is better to time dose drip from an ISF. An informational box will be included

Recirculating Gravel Filter:

Completion of the RS&G review/revision will be delayed until the research project with University of Washington on recirculating gravel systems is finished. The estimated time of the project completion is the end of 2012. John Eliasson is the lead and gave a brief update on the project. The site for the project is the Snoqualmie wastewater treatment plant has been selected and there are many other details to be worked out. The anticipated start up will be in spring 2012.

One technical issue that was brought up for future discussion is the organic loading rates.

Water Conserving Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and the Greywater Rule:

Lynn Schneider explained that the Greywater Rule (Chapter 246-274 WAC) is for seasonal irrigation of plants and does not act as a substitute for an onsite sewage system. The Water Conserving On-site Wastewater Treatment System is a distinctly separate document addressing sewage systems for treatment and disposal of permanent greywater sewage systems. She is the lead on the revision of the RS&G for this document and is accepting comments. Lynn.Schneider@doh.wa.gov. (360)236-3379.

WRAP UP:

The minor revisions of the Sand Lined Trench and Intermittent Sand Filter RS&G will be completed soon and sent to the TAG for comments. A final draft of the Subsurface Drip Systems RS&G will be further reviewed internally at DOH, followed by the wastewater coordinators statewide. The next RS&G for review/revision is Mound Systems.

The meeting ended at 3:15 pm, September 16, 2011.

The next meeting will be in Spring 2012