



Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

P.O. Box 871

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

PAPSS POSITION PAPER REGARDING THE EXISTING ONLOT ALTERNATE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS AND SOIL SCIENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the profession of soil classification, mapping, and interpretations, and to increase and further the dissemination of information concerning soil science as it contributes to the protection of the environment and general human welfare.

PAPSS provides a forum for pedological information, encourages and enhances communication with other technical disciplines, serves as a body of opinion on matters relating to soil classification and interpretations, and maintains professional standards in the application of soil science in Pennsylvania.

PAPSS members are directly involved in site characterization for approved alternate onlot sewage disposal technologies approved for use in Pennsylvania. Subsequent to several reviews of the Alternate System program in Pennsylvania, the following list of recommendations has been prepared by a PAPSS workgroup review committee:

General Comments

Issue No. 1 All references to onlot alternate technologies and systems should be presented in one location, rather than in two separate sources (the Alternate Systems Guidance and the Onlot Alternate Technology Listing).

Alternate Systems Guidance (ASG)

Issue No. 2 The Siting Requirements for hydraulic linear load design systems (such as that presented in the "A/B Soil System") note that "overall site suitability will be limited by the most restrictive . . . soil morphology from all of the test probes evaluated." The actual design criteria should be limited to those probes which "bracket" the absorption area only. Current wording suggests that probes located fifty feet down slope of the absorption area may be used for absorption area design criteria. This should be revised to incorporate reference only to the soil testing conducted adjacent to the absorption area, and not have the potential to be based on soil conditions fifty feet down slope of the proposed absorption area.



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Issue No. 3 All bed system absorption areas should have the same maximum slope requirement of 15%. The maximum slope for some bed systems is limited to 12%, and should be consistent with the 15% limit established for other technologies.

Issue No. 4 The loading rate table used to design the drip irrigation system should be included in the ASG. (Currently, this information is only presented in the drip system criteria of the Onlot Alternate Technology Listing.)

Onlot Alternate Technology Listing (OAT)

Issue No. 5 Siting criteria for the Orenco AdvanTex system should be included in the OAT listing, rather than in a separate (ASG) document relative to alternate system design standards.

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2012 PAPSS President
September 25, 2012