VERMONT

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Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
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Agency of Natural Resources

Innovative/Alternative (I/A) System Approval For General Use

STAAR™ Wastewater Treatment System Series

Original Approval Date: 2002
Approval Number: 2002-03-R3
Revision Date: August 23, 2016
Expiration Date: August 22, 2018

Vendor Information

SeptiTech®, a subsidiary of Bio-Microbics, Inc.
69 Holland Street
Lewiston, ME 04240 USA

General Phone: (207) 333-6940
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Website: http://www.septitech.com/

Technology Name

Residential Series Models STAAR 0.5, STAAR 0.75, STAAR 1.0, and Commercial Series Models STAAR 1.2, STAAR 1.5, STAAR 2.0, STAAR 3.0, and STAAR 4.5

Contact

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Technology Type

Recirculating Trickling Filter

I. Authority

A. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 1, Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, Effective September 29, 2007, Subchapter 10, Approval of Innovative/Alternative Systems and Products § 1-1001: Innovative/Alternative Systems and Products: General Use, the Secretary (Secretary) of the Agency of Natural Resources (Agency),Department of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division (Division) has determined that the technologies listed in this approval may be used as part of a soil based disposal system permitted under the Vermont Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (Rules), provided the conditions of this approval are met.

II. General

A. This approval contains specific requirements related to the design, installation, operation and maintenance of these technologies. The landowner where this technology is specified must agree to specific requirements for ongoing operation and maintenance of this system. The landowner should carefully read this approval letter, particularly the requirements for proper operation and maintenance.

B. The manufacturer (Vendor) of the technologies also have specific requirements for design review, training, installation oversight, annual reporting, and supporting the operation, maintenance and repairs needed to keep the system in working condition. This approval contains an expiration date and requires the vendor to submit an application for renewal of this approval.

C. The technologies listed in this approval are used to pre-treat the wastewater prior to discharge to a soil based disposal system.

III. Approval Conditions

A. The technologies listed in this approval may be used as part of a soil based disposal system permitted under the Rules provided the conditions of this approval are met. Failure by the vendor to comply with this approval is grounds for the Agency to revoke or not renew the approval.

B. This approval shall expire on the date stated above. Applications for renewal of this approval shall be submitted 45 days before the expiration date. The renewal request shall include a description of any changes to the equipment, technical specifications and drawings, installation requirements, operation and maintenance requirements, and homeowner's manuals. If new models are introduced or changes are made to the technology, the vendor shall submit detailed descriptions of any modifications to existing approved models as part of the renewal application.

C. Each Innovative/Alternative treatment unit shall be installed and operated as approved by the Agency and as required by the vendor's design, operation and maintenance manuals, and as listed on the vendor's website.

D. Treatment unit sizing shall be in accord with the vendor's technical requirements approved by the Agency. Sizing of each unit shall be based on the calculated design flow per §1-808 of the Rules, as well as considerations for the organic loading rate of each unit. The new model name and maximum design flow for each model are as follows:

Old Model Name	New Model Name	Design Flow (GPD)
M400	STAAR 0.5	500
M550	STAAR 0.75	750
M750	STAAR 1.0	1,000
M1200	STAAR 1.2	1,200
M1500	STAAR 1.5	1,500
M1500	STAAR 2.0	2,000
M2500	STAAR 3.0	3,000
M3000	STAAR 4.5	4,500

E. The treatment unit may be used for both new and replacement wastewater systems.

F. If the Rules are revised during the term of this approval, this approval shall be revised as needed to conform to the revisions.

G. Site-specific permission for the use of this product is required in the form of a Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit (WW Permit) when a project is subject to the Rules.

H. This approval is not a representation or guarantee of the effectiveness, efficiency, or operation of the treatment unit.

I. This general use approval is based on treatment of domestic wastewater of low and moderate waste strength as specified in §1-915(a)(1)(C) and (D) of the Rules except as specified in Section III(k) below.

J. This approval is based on information submitted by the vendor indicating that the specified treatment units will routinely provide effluent with no more than 30 mg/L of BOD_5 and no more than 30 mg/L of TSS. Effluent from the treatment unit shall discharge to a soil based disposal system that conforms to the requirements of §1-916 of the Rules.

K. Wastewater system designs for wastewater that exceeds moderate strength may use the commercial series models of the approved treatment unit on a project by project basis if permitted by the Secretary. The designer shall obtain agreement by the vendor for the proposed use and sizing of these units. These treatment units may require more frequent maintenance as recommended by the vendor. The project-specific permit application and design shall clearly state the treatment performance goals for the treatment units. The designer shall submit information to the Secretary as to whether the unit will achieve 30 mg/L BOD_5 and TSS, or will otherwise reduce the wastewater strength to low or moderate levels. There may be instances where the treatment units are intended to reduce the wastewater strength to low or moderate standards and disperse into a fully sized soil based disposal system.

IV. Responsible Parties, Requirements and Conditions

A. Landowner

1. The landowner must comply with all conditions of their WW Permit in addition to the conditions of this approval.

2. The landowner is responsible for the treatment unit to be inspected by a Licensed Designer as part of the installation inspection and certification of the soil based disposal system.

3. The landowner shall have a valid maintenance contract with a vendor-trained and authorized licensed designer or service provider in force at all times. The contract shall include a requirement for annual inspections. Commercial and community soil based wastewater disposal systems may require more frequent maintenance as recommended by the vendor. The minimum length of any contract shall be for a period of two years.

4. A copy of the initial contract and notification of each succeeding contract shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office of the Division and to the vendor.

5. A copy of all inspection and maintenance reports shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office of the Division within 60 days of the inspection. The landowner may authorize the licensed designer or the service provider to submit the contracts, notifications and reports on their behalf.

6. The landowner shall keep the system in good operating condition and report any problems to the service provider who, in turn, shall note any problems and repairs on their inspection report.

7. The landowner shall provide a copy of this approval, the WW Permit, and the operating instructions, provided by the vendor, to any person who is a prospective purchaser of a property prior to the sale of the property.

8. Within 30 days of the transfer of the property, the new landowner shall inform the appropriate Regional Office of the Division and the vendor of the change in ownership, including the WW Permit number, lot number or street address, and their name and mailing address.

9. The WW Permit that authorizes the use of this product may be revoked if the treatment unit fails to function properly or if the landowner fails to maintain a valid contract for the required maintenance and inspections of the treatment unit. In the event the WW Permit is revoked, the use of the building will need to be discontinued unless another wastewater treatment system is installed in accordance with a WW Permit issued by the Secretary.

B. Vendor

1. The vendor shall provide the Central Office of the Division (Attention Innovative/Alternative Program Manager) with the names of the Vermont distributor(s) within 60 days of this approval and within 30 days of termination and/or hiring a new firm or sole proprietorship during the term of this approval.

2. The vendor shall provide training for and maintain a list of trained designers and installers.

3. The vendor shall provide training and maintain a list of trained service providers authorized to work on the treatment units.

4. Prior to selling equipment, the vendor shall provide information to the Division regarding who is authorized to sell equipment in Vermont.

5. The vendor shall have an inventory of replacement parts available locally or available for delivery within 24 hours.

6. Prior to the start-up of the wastewater system, detailed operating instructions shall be provided in writing by the vendor to the landowner.

7. The vendor shall submit an annual report electronically to the Central Office of the Division (Attention Innovative/Alternative Program Manager) by April 1st of each year containing the following information for the 12 month period ending December 31st of the previous year:

a) Permitted systems installed in Vermont during the previous calendar year, including:

i. Assigned WW Permit number;

ii. Name of current landowner(s);

iii. Physical and mailing addresses;

iv. Name of Licensed Designer providing the installation certification;

v. Date installed;

vi. Name of the installer; and

vii. Name of the authorized service provider.

b) A summary of all known system problems, damages and/or failures, including:

i. Description of issues;

ii. Potential/known causes of problems;

iii. System operability;

iv. Recommended repair/remediation;

v. System effectiveness; and

vi. Changes in technology specifications

c) A list of names of licensed designers and installers trained by the vendor and/or the vendor's representative.

d) The names and contact information for trained and authorized service providers.

C. Licensed Designer

1. Design Preparation

a) The design of a wastewater system shall include the specific model of the treatment unit approved in this document.

b) The designer shall consult with the vendor for proper sizing of the treatment unit.

c) The designer must assess the structural needs of the treatment unit for the specific application site and include the construction requirements on the design plans.

d) The designer must determine the type of backfill required and any necessary placement specifications.

e) The designer must assess the ventilation path for the particular application and make any necessary provisions to assure proper air flow and control of odor emissions.

f) The designer must provide access to each compartment of the unit (access to grade) as well as to the control panel, any pumps, sampling ports, and any other access needed to perform routine maintenance activities.

g) The designer must address flotation issues if the seasonal high groundwater table will be above the bottom of any of the tanks. Treatment units shall be equipped with anti-flotation devices unless there is a demonstration that flotation is not a problem on a particular site or that an alternative method of stabilization is approved by the Agency.

2. Installation Inspection

a) The treatment unit shall be installed under the guidance of a representative of the vendor.

b) The treatment unit shall be inspected by a licensed designer prior to installing the treatment unit, immediately upon installation of the tanks and before backfilling, and after backfilling and grading is complete. The inspection shall include checking for an adequate structural foundation to support the unit, for levelness of the tanks, for anti-buoyancy, for potential damage during installation, and for proper assembly. The inspection shall include all piping and associated tankage for proper installation before backfilling.

c) The treatment unit and associated tankage shall be tested by the licensed designer for watertightness unless written certification is provided by the vendor at the time of installation. The test includes filling the unit or tanks with water to a point that is above all below grade openings and holding it at a constant level for 24 hours; there shall be no measurable leakage. During the test, the entire unit and the tanks shall be inspected for visible leaks. Should the unit or tanks fail the test, they may be repaired and retested. The testing and repairs shall be conducted under the direction and in the presence of the inspecting designer.

d) The licensed designer shall submit an installation certification letter to the WW permit holder, the vendor, and the appropriate Regional Office of the Division within 30 days of the installation, using the language of §1-308 of the Rules, that the wastewater system was correctly installed as well as providing the results of watertightness testing. The certification letter shall identify any repairs that were completed during the installation and testing of the unit or tanks. This letter shall also be provided to the vendor.

e) The licensed designer may be required to conduct on-going inspections of the system beyond the routine maintenance provided by the service provider. See the WW permit for any special inspection and monitoring conditions.

D. Service Provider

1. Maintenance and inspections shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's operation and maintenance manual submitted as part of the Innovative/Alternative System application package, and as provided in trainings by the vendor.

a) Qualified Service Providers

i. Maintenance and inspections of the Innovative/Alternative treatment unit must be performed by a licensed designer or service provider trained and authorized by the vendor.

ii. Problems found with any portions of the wastewater system (including the system being failed as defined by the Rules) must be reported immediately to the landowner.

b) Maintenance and Inspection

i. The start-up, six month, and ongoing maintenance and inspections shall be performed by the authorized service provider.

ii. More frequent inspections may be required when recommended by the vendor or on a case-by-case basis by the Secretary.

iii. All reports must be submitted to the landowner in a timely manner so that they can provide the report to the appropriate Regional Office of the Division as well as the vendor within 60 days of completing a maintenance or inspection.

c) Maintenance and Inspection Reports

Maintenance and inspection reports shall include:

i. I/A Maintenance and Inspection Report Coversheet;

ii. Current landowner's name, physical and mailing address;

iii. Permit number and lot number(s) if applicable;

iv. Date of inspection;

v. I/A technology and model;

vi. Validation that the system is operational and meets vendor requirements;

vii. Comments or outstanding corrective actions and recommended due dates;

viii. Any site/system modification;

ix. Results of all effluent testing; and

x. Service Provider/Licensed Designer name, signature and date signed.

Effective Date: August 23, 2016

By: Ernest Christianson
Ernest Christianson
Regional Office Program Manager