

**Innovative/Alternative System Approval**

General Use per §1-1001 of the  
Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, effective September 29, 2007

#2002-02-R2 (2008 Renewal)

**Vendor Information**

Premier Tech Environment  
Head Office  
1, Avenue Premier  
Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec  
G5R 6C1 Canada  
(877) 295-5763

**Technology Name**

Ecoflo® Biofilter

Premier Tech Environment  
U.S. Office  
P.O. Box 226  
Woodbury, VT 05681

**Contact**

Mary K. Clark  
Premier Tech Environment  
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**Technology Type**

Single Pass Peat Filter

**Local Contact**

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**Expiration Date**

June 1, 2010



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**Approval**

The Ecoflo® Biofilter Model STB-650, STB-500, STB-650C and STB-650BR, with a mixed medium, may be used as part of a subsurface wastewater disposal system approved under the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, effective September 29, 2007 (Rules), under the following conditions:

1. The treatment units may include a mixed medium filter comprised of a bottom section (15 ½ inches) composed of a natural material having a high fibrous and lignin content (coconut fibers), and a top section (15 ½ inches) of peat moss.
2. The treatment units must be installed and operated as described in the Innovative/Alternative System application package filed with the Agency of Natural Resources (Agency) on April 9, 2002, on March 10, 2004, on July 12, 2005, on September 19, 2005, and with the NSF® Evaluation Report, dated November 2005.
3. Unit sizing must be in accord with the Rules and the manufacturer's recommendations. The sizing shall be based on the calculated design flow per §1-808 of the Rules. The STB650 and the STB650BR, with the new mixed medium filter are approved for use with a design flow of up to 600 gallons per day.
4. This approval is based on treatment only of domestic wastewater of low and moderate strength as specified in §1-915(a)(1)(C) & (D) of the Rules.
5. The system may be used for both new and replacement systems.
6. All effluent from the Ecoflo® Biofilter shall be discharged to a filtrate disposal system that conforms to the requirements of §1-916 of the Rules. If the Rules are revised during the term of this approval, this approval may be revised as needed to conform to the revisions.
7. Detailed operating instruction shall be provided in writing to the owner/operator.
8. The vendor shall have an inventory of replacement parts available locally.
9. The Designer shall provide a copy of this approval letter to any landowner who is a prospective purchaser of an Ecoflo® Biofilter prior to the sale of the system and prior to the filing of any application for a site-specific approval by the Agency for the landowner's property. The application filed with the Agency shall include the landowner's written acknowledgement of this approval letter. Prior to any sale of the property or completion of a sales agreement to sell the property, a copy of the site-specific permit shall be provided to the prospective purchaser.

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10. The owner of a property where an Ecoflo® Biofilter has been installed shall have a valid maintenance contract in force at all times. The minimum length of any contract shall be for a period of two years. A copy of the initial and each succeeding contract shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Environmental Office of the Agency. Maintenance shall be performed or supervised by a Licensed Class 1 Designer or a Licensed Class B Designer, approved by the Vendor, who shall provide written inspection reports detailing the maintenance performed on the specific system, any problems that have occurred since the previous inspection, any modifications made to the system, the date of the inspection, and any work required to ensure the system operates in compliance with this approval.

The inspection shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's Operation and Maintenance Manual submitted as part of the Innovative/Alternative System application package. If at any inspection the effluent is cloudy or pungent smelling a sample shall be collected and tested for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The results of any testing shall be submitted with the annual inspection report.

11. The first inspection shall be completed no later than 6 months after placing the system in service. The second inspection shall be completed no later than 12 months after placing the system in service. Subsequent inspections shall be completed at least once per year based on the date when the system was first placed in service. More frequent inspections or additional testing, required by the manufacturer to ensure proper functioning of the system, shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. All reports shall be filed with the appropriate Regional Environmental Office of the Agency, the Vendor and the landowner with the annual inspection report.
12. The vendor shall submit an annual report to the Agency by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year containing the following information for the previous 12 month period ending December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year:
  - A. The number of permitted systems installed in Vermont, including those permitted by the Agency and those permitted by Towns under authority of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 102.
  - B. The address of each installation.
  - C. The name of the owner at the time of installation and any known change in ownership.
  - D. All known problems or failures, with a brief summary of the cause and remedial measures taken.

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13. This approval is based on information submitted by the Vendor indicating that the specified models and treatment modes will routinely provide effluent with no more than 30 mg/l of BOD<sub>5</sub> or more than 30 mg/l of TSS.
14. When the project is subject to the Rules, site specific permission for the use of this product is required in the form of a Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit.
15. A site-specific permit for the use of this system may be revoked if the system fails to function properly or if the property owner fails to have a valid contract for the required maintenance and inspection of the system. Revocation of the permit will require that the use of the building be discontinued unless another wastewater disposal system is installed based on prior written approval by the Agency.
16. This approval is not a representation or guarantee of the effectiveness, efficiency or operation of an Ecoflo® Biofilter.

### **Design and Review Conditions**

The following conditions will be used by the Department in reviewing permit applications that include an Ecoflo® Biofilter:

#### **Equipment**

- Ecoflo® Biofilter Model STB-650, STB-500, STB-650C and STB-650BR.  
All Ecoflo® Biofilters may be used with the mixed medium.

#### **Design and Application**

- The treatment unit shall be designed by a Licensed Class 1 Designer or a Licensed Class B Designer in accordance with the Rules and the manufacturer's recommendations. The designer shall assure that the system will properly function in all seasons.
- The designer must assess the structural needs of the unit for the specific application site and place the requirements on the design plans.
- The designer must determine the type of backfill required and any necessary placement specification.
- The designer must assess the ventilation path for the particular application and make any necessary provisions to assure proper flow and control of odor emissions.

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- The designer shall include in the design a septic tank effluent filter with easy access for inspection and cleaning.
- The designer must assure routine access to the unit as well as the septic tank effluent filter.
- The designer must address flotation issues if the SHWT will be above the bottom of any of the tanks.

Installation Inspection

- The treatment unit shall be set up under the instruction and guidance of an installer/inspector trained by the manufacturer.
- The treatment unit shall be inspected by a Licensed Class 1 Designer or a Licensed Class B Designer, approved by the Vendor, after construction of the unit and installation of the tanks before backfilling, and after backfilling and grading is complete. The inspection shall include checking for an adequate structural foundation to support the unit, checking for levelness of the tanks, and inspecting for damage and proper assembly.
- Before backfilling, the unit and tankage shall be tested for watertightness in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. During the test the entire unit and 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 Licensed Class 1 Designer or Licensed Class B Designer.
- The Licensed Class 1 Designer or Licensed Class B Designer shall inspect all piping for proper installation and watertightness before backfilling.

Start-up

- Start-up of the system and initial operational checks shall be conducted by an installer/inspector trained by the manufacturer, who shall submit a report to the owner, and to the inspecting Licensed Class 1 Designer or Licensed Class B Designer indicating any problems encountered, their resolution, and affirmation that the system is operating as intended.

Operational Maintenance and Inspection

- The owner shall have a valid maintenance contract in force at all times. The minimum length of any contract shall be for a period of two years. A copy of the initial and each succeeding contract shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Environmental Office of the Agency. Maintenance shall be performed by, or shall be supervised by, a Licensed Class 1 Designer or a

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Licensed Class B Designer, approved by the Vendor, who shall provide written inspection reports detailing the maintenance performed on the specific system, any problems that have occurred since the previous inspection, any modifications made to the system, the date of the inspection, and any work required to ensure the system operates in compliance with this approval.

The inspection shall be performed in accord with the manufacturers Operation and Maintenance Manual submitted as part of the Innovative/Alternative System application package. If at any inspection the effluent is cloudy or pungent smelling a sample shall be collected and tested for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The results of any testing shall be submitted with the annual inspection report.

- The first inspection shall be completed no later than 6 months after placing the system in service.
- The second inspection shall be completed no later than 12 months after placing the system in service.
- Subsequent inspections shall be completed at least once per year based on the date when the system was first placed in service. More frequent inspections or additional testing, required by the manufacturer to ensure proper functioning of the system, shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- All reports shall be filed with the appropriate Regional Environmental Office of the Agency, the Vendor and the landowner with the annual inspection report.

Permitting

- The permit shall run with the land.
- A copy of the permit shall be provided to any prospective buyers prior to the sale.
- Each new owner of the property shall inform the appropriate Regional Environmental Office of the Agency within 30 days of the transfer of the property and include the name and mailing address of the new owner.

Effective June 11, 2008

By Roger Thompson Jr  
Roger Thompson, Jr.  
Regional Office Program Manager