

HARRIS COUNTY

Public Infrastructure Department
Architecture & Engineering Division

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To All Aerobic Treatment Unit Manufacturers
On-Site Sewerage Facility Designers
On-Site Sewerage Facility Installers

SUBJECT: Aerobic Treatment Units installed in Watersheds with Impaired Stream Segments

To whom it may concern:

This is written to inform you that the Revised Rules of Harris County, Texas for On-Site Sewerage Facilities were revised effective July 1, 2009. These revisions were made to bring our regulations into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act regarding Section 303(d) which is a list that identifies the water bodies in or bordering Texas for which effluent limitations are not stringent enough to implement water quality standards and for which the associated pollutants are suitable for measurement by daily load. There are several revisions to maintenance and design requirements. In watersheds where one or more stream segments are listed as impaired for bacteria on the EPA 303(d) list, the following additional requirements will apply regarding maintenance, designs and installations:

1. Electronic monitoring as outlined in amendment M(4) shall be required for all new and replacement on-site sewerage facilities.
2. All on-site sewage facilities must use secondary treatment meeting a 30 day average CBOD of 10 mg/L and TSS of 10 mg/L. On NSF Standard 40 units this must be demonstrated by test results. On engineered one of a kind systems, a design parameter of 5 mg/L CBOD & 5 mg/L TSS shall be used.
3. Pump tanks shall be equipped such that when pumping, a portion of the effluent is returned below static water level to insure scour of the pump tank bottom.

Additionally, it is the designers' and installers' responsibility to select an ATU unit that meets these requirements when designing and installing in these areas.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Bennett
Manager, Wastewater Section

DLB:dkh