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March 18, 2008

To: Technical Review Committee members

From: Scott A. Uhlich, Secretary

Re: **Minutes of the 27th TRC meeting held March 17, 2008.**

The 27<sup>th</sup> TRC meeting was held at the DHR Training Center in the Riverside Corporate Center on Riverside Drive, Macon, GA. on March 17, 2008. Dr. Lawton Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members in Attendance: Lawton Davis, M.D., Bill Fortune, P.E., Bill Durham, Phil Freshley, Mat Harper, Scott Uhlich, Dewayne Tanner, Ernest Earn and Mark Harden.

Guests: Steve Dix, Stan Coppage, Jim Free, Todd Jones, Chris Kumnick, Ben Berteau and attorney.

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order
2. Review of minutes from the 26<sup>th</sup> TRC meeting. Motion to approve made by Mark Hardin. Minutes approved.
3. New Members: Mr. Uhlich informed the committee that Dr. Mark Risse would be added to the TRC to replace Dr. Larry West. Mr. Uhlich discussed with the committee members the progress toward finding an engineer for the open engineering position on the committee. Mr. Uhlich will e-mail the information on the applicants for review by the committee members.
4. Old Business:

**A. Eljen GSF system:** The standards sub-committee report was presented by Scott Uhlich. Mr. Uhlich discussed the review process concerning the Eljen Geotextile Sand Filter system. The Eljen GSF system currently is provisionally approved under Class I effluent standards contained in the Department's Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems. The standards sub-committee held meetings and conference calls with representatives from Eljen. The standards sub-committee noted the following features of the Eljen GSF system. The Eljen GSF system provides a two tiered process utilizing fabric modules surrounded by an approved coarse sand to achieve effluent quality superior to Class I standards. Test results submitted by the company involved 3 different application methods:

timed dosing, demand dosing and gravity flow. Test results indicated each application method exceeded Class I effluent standards. In addition to product test results, additional third party research was submitted in support of increased application rates beyond the current provisional approval.

The sub-committee supports increase loading rates for soil conditions when the limiting condition is 2 or more feet below trench or bed bottom. The sub-committee recommends allowing up to a 50% reduction in absorption field size for absorption rates of 60 minutes per inch or less; and 40% reduction for slower absorption rates. The committee recommends that no reduction in absorption field be allowed when the limiting condition is less than 2 feet below trench or bed bottom. This recommendation is consistent with current requirements in the Department's Manual for On-site Sewage Management Systems.

Due to the passive nature of the system, the sub-committee recommends requiring assistance as needed three year service policy.

### **TRC Sub-Committee Recommendations Eljen GSF Geotextile Sand Filter system**

1. The A42 Eljen GSF module is approved to be installed in a four foot (4') trench. The application rate for trenches will be used but must be demanded dosed and installed meeting the bed installation requirements.
2. Eljen GSF system is approved at 2' separation for a 50% sizing reduction until 60 min/in PercRate and a 40% after at increased PercRates.
3. Eljen GSF systems are approved for bed installations with demand dosing to a distribution box. Doses shall be 3.5 gallons or less per module which does not require timed dosing.
4. Eljen GSF system must offer a three year technical assistance service policy. No maintenance visits are required.

Steve Dix, representing Eljen, discussed the test results and application methods with the committee members. Committee members discussed the demand dosing to a distribution box. The demand dose will release a volume of water based on the number of modules to be dosed in the absorption field. For serial gravity flow, Mr. Dix explained that the biomat on the fabric wrapped module would cause wastewater flow through the module to slow and the excess wastewater will follow the path of least resistance through the solid pipe to the next module by gravity flow. A motion to approve the sub-committee recommendations for the Eljen GSF system was made by Mark Hardin. Motion approved.

**B. ICC Flowtech System:** The standards sub-committee completed review of testing information submitted by ICC concerning the Flowtech Drainage System. Mr. Uhlich

discussed the review process. ICC initially requested approval as a “like product” asserting their Flow Tech system was exactly the same as the Ring Industrial Company EZflow System. Mr. Uhlich informed ICC that the TRC required specific product testing information. ICC submitted third party test information for the ICC Flowtech FTS123H-1 Drainage System from Uniform Engineering. This information included product schematics, contact area test results, storage volume test results and load bearing test results. The company failed to provide sufficient information for the sub-committee to complete a review on the ICC Flowtech FTS75H-1, FTS94H-1, FTS103H-1 and FTS142H-1 Drainage Systems. Based on the information submitted for the ICC Flowtech FTS123H-1 Drainage System, the sub-committee has the following recommendations.

### **TRC Sub-Committee Recommendations – ICC Flowtech**

1. After review of independent third party test results on contact area impact on trench bottom and side wall, and review of aggregate storage volume data, the sub-committee recommends an equivalency factor of **.75** for the **ICC Flowtech FTS123H-1 Drainage System**.
2. Due to the fact that insufficient information has been submitted, the sub-committee could not make a recommendation on the **FTS75H-1, FTS94H-1, FTS103H-1 and FTS142H-1 Drainage System**.  
No Schematics provided identifying trench bottom and side wall contact area per model.  
No volume calculations submitted.

Ben Berteau, Ring Industrial Group, raised a point concerning ICC’s lack of system installation history in Georgia and surrounding states. He indicated the committee should consider the lack of field supported data, and limit or control system distribution. He indicated North Carolina limited the number of system installations to 200. Discussion among committee members centered on whether the TRC should recommend limiting the number of installations in the state until verification of product quality in field use is determined. The committee determined quality control compliance would be addressed at the time of system installation through the inspection process. Sub-standard product would be denied approval at the time of inspection. County health departments had the capability of reporting quality control problems to the state office. If necessary, the state office can address the product approval with the TRC. Motion was made by Mark Hardin to accept the sub-committee recommendation to approve the ICC Flowtech FTS123H-1 system at an equivalency factor of .75 and place no state limit on the number of system installations. Motion approved.

#### 5. New Business:

A. Aquaklear Aerobic Treatment Unit. Mr. Uhlich provided the members with a copy of a letter of complaint signed by the Chairman of the Boards of Health and the District Medical Director from the Valdosta Health District. Mr. Uhlich discussed the problems

Valdosta was experiencing and the state office was having with the company compiling with the submittal of service reports.

B. USEPA recognition: Mr. Uhlich provided the members with a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognition of The State of Georgia for management of onsite sewage systems. Mr. Uhlich thanked the members for their contribution to the DHR program.