

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Health Managers
District Health Directors
Office of Environmental Health Services staff
AOSE/PEs and other stakeholders

FROM: Karen Remley, M.D., M.B.A.
State Health Commissioner

DATE: April 9, 2008

RE: Experimental approval for the Bio-COIR system
Guidance Memoranda and Policies (GMP) #144

The Bio-COIR wastewater treatment system uses a coir media for treatment and is manufactured by Quanics, Inc., a company located in Crestwood, Kentucky. Coir is a generic name describing the fibers or husk of the coconut fruit. Quanics, Inc. requests experimental approval for the Bio-COIR wastewater treatment system so that the company can install, test, and monitor the system's efficacy when designed and installed with a reduced footprint and shallower depths to limiting features than presently allowed by the 2000 *Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations* (the *2000 Regulations*).¹

The Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services (DOSWS) completed a detailed review of the manufacturer's product, its claims, and the probable efficacy of its product when designed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. DOSWS recommended that I grant an experimental approval for the system and this policy approves the system for experimental use and also establishes the protocol for the experimental testing procedure.

While every attempt has been made to eliminate possible elements of confusion about the waivers and variances granted to this proprietary product, new questions or concerns may arise over time. Stakeholders are advised to contact, Donald J. Alexander, Director, Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services (DOSWS) at 109 Governor Street, 5th Floor, Richmond Virginia 23219, (804) 864-7452 to discuss any additional points of confusion about this product's experimental approval.

¹ See Section 441 et. seq. of the 2000 *Regulations* for a detailed explanation of experimental approval, the testing requirements, and the methodologies used to evaluate new technologies in Virginia.