

June 8, 1995

MEMORANDUM

GMP #70

TO: District Directors  
Environmental Health Managers  
Environmental Health Supervisors  
Office of Environmental Health Staff  
Office of Water Programs

FROM: Donald J. Alexander, Director  
Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

SUBJECT: Preliminary Approval of Sewage Discharge Systems  
Sewage - Discharge - Approval

Aquarobic USA has requested preliminary approval of the "AQUAROBIC: THE VIRGINIA 600 MINI-PLANT/FILTER". Based on a technical review of the design and engineering principles conducted by the Division in accordance with §2.25 B of the Alternative Discharging Regulations and the recommendations of the Discharge Regulations Task Force's Technical Committee, the Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services grants preliminary approval as indicated in paragraph 1) and 3) of the attached letter. The approval becomes effective the date of this memorandum

GMP #70  
Sewage - Discharge - Approval

June 8, 1995

Daniel E. Pavón, President  
AQUAROBIC International, Inc.  
999A Shenandoah Shores Road  
Front Royal, Virginia 22630

Dear Mr. Pavón:

Re: Request for preliminary approvals of "AQUAROBIC: THE VIRGINIA 600 MINI-PLANT/FILTER" under the Alternative Discharging Sewage Treatment Regulations for Single Family Dwellings (DSTR).

The Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services has reviewed your request for preliminary approval of the Virginia 600 Mini-Plant as referenced in our letter to you dated March 15, 1995. Based on our review we find the following:

- 1) Preliminary approval is granted to the Virginia 600 Mini-Plant/Filter (mini-plant), as shown in attachment 1, for discharges to dry ditch or intermittent streams of 500' or more (IS/DD 500) for design flows up to 600 gpd. This sewage treatment system consists of a 6' wide by 11' long by 4' deep aerobic batch activated sludge compartment which receives the waste directly from the house connection. Clarified wastewater from the aeration chamber is then pumped to a 3' wide by 6' long by 3.6' deep up flow gravel filter. The gravel in the filter will have an effective size of less than 3.5 mm and a uniformity coefficient of less than 4.0. Virginia Department of Transportation's 78, 8 or 9 gravel should meet the effective size and uniformity coefficient. A pump is provided to return the liquid and any solids that accumulated in the filter back to the aeration chamber. Wastewater from the up flow filter passes through a tablet chlorinator and then enters the chlorine contact tank. The chlorine contact tank has an approximate volume of 600 gallons. Chlorinated wastewater then passes through a tablet dechlorinator. If ultraviolet light disinfection is used then the flow from the upflow filter must be limited to the capacity for the ultraviolet unit.

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- 2) Preliminary approval is denied for the unit described above for use in discharges to dry ditches or intermittent streams 250'-499' (IS/DD 250) in length. Based on your request the unit described above is not equivalent to the combination process (or redundant units) required in Table 3.2 of the Discharge Regulations. We do not think the upflow unit by itself (without the aeration unit) would be able to provide an effluent of 30 mg/L BOD<sub>5</sub> and 30 mg/L total Suspended solids.
- 3) Preliminary approval is granted to the Virginia 600 mini-plant/filter, as described in 1) above, with a constructed wetlands for discharges to IS/DD 250. This system is shown in attachment 2. The wetlands must be a minimum of 100 ft<sup>2</sup>. The components of the wetlands may be adjusted as new developments in wetlands treatment technologies progresses.
- 4) Preliminary approval is denied for the Virginia 600 mini-plant/filter when followed by a downflow sandfilter for discharges to IS/DD 250 as shown on pages 7 and 8 as attached to our letter dated March 15, 1995. This system has not been installed or tested to see if it will mechanically function as designed. If a bench scale or field experimental operation indicates the system will function as well as the system described in paragraph C and D of GMP #18, we may reevaluate your request.

Construction plans and specifications prepared by a engineer licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia must be submitted, for the systems granted preliminary approval, and be in accordance with § 2.14 of DSTR. As appropriate all pumps must have either high water or failure to pump alarms. All chlorination and dechlorination tubes should be designed so that when the tubes are removed the tablets remain in the tube for inspection. Post aeration will need to be provided.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, please contact me at (804) 786-1750.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Cooley  
Assistant Technical Services Chief  
Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

pc: Don Alexander  
Cal Sawyer, PE