



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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GMP #69

To: District Environmental Health Managers
District Health Directors
OEHS Staff

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

Subject: Experimental Protocol for Puraflo™
Peat Filter Treatment System
Onsite - Product Approval - Puraflo™

The Department has completed a review of the Puraflo™ treatment system and on June 9, 1995, the Division approved an experimental protocol to test the Puraflo™ system in accordance with §2.25 of the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations. This GMP is intended to provide guidance on how to process applications for Puraflo™ systems. The site criteria are contained in the **Experimental Protocol** document and will be covered in greater detail during training.

Conceptually, the Puraflo™ system will provide additional wastewater treatment prior to soil treatment and disposal and thereby reduce the minimum site requirements necessary to finish treating the effluent. Approval of this protocol is intended to allow the demonstration of the Puraflo™ system for the purposes of determining whether the system can overcome soil and site limitations that would prohibit the use of a conventional onsite system due to the proximity or rock or water table or both.

The Department's approval of this protocol is only granted for the Puraflo™ system and is not transferable to any other product. Applications for products other than Puraflo™, or for sites that exceed the scope of this waiver, are subject to the provisions of §2.25.

The process to obtain a construction permit for Puraflo™ system begins with filing an application. Applications may be made to review a new site, to modify a previously issued permit, or to convert a 415 certification letter to a construction permit to allow a Puraflo™ system. The waiver defines the Puraflo™ system as an experimental system. The experimental protocol submitted by Bord na Mona was prepared by a professional engineer and all

testing associated with the protocol will be conducted under the auspices of a professional engineer. Given the simple design and hydraulics aspects of this system, the Division considers this adequate to comply with the requirements of §2.25 as they relate to the requirements for a professional engineer. Local health departments may, at their discretion, require either formal or informal plans and specifications, as deemed appropriate for the proposed use and site conditions, prior to issuing a permit. All provisions of §2.25, including but not limited to the requirements for a backup site, apply when issuing a permit. Applicants seeking the Department to waive the requirement for a backup site, must apply to the commissioner for a variance from this regulation. Decisions will be made individually based on the guidelines contained in the regulations. Individual permits shall be issued by the local health department and a copy of the permit and site conditions sent to the Division on Onsite Sewage and Water Services.

When a new application is made for a construction permit and it specifically requests a Puraflo™ system, an application fee shall be charged and the site shall be evaluated in the same manner as any application for a conventional septic system except that the site and soil conditions contained in the **Experimental Protocol** may be used. If the site and soil conditions meet these criteria, the site shall be deemed suitable for a Puraflo™ system.

Applications to convert a 415 certification letter to a Puraflo™ system shall follow the same general process, including collecting a fee; however, no soil evaluation is specifically required. A site evaluation (as opposed to soil evaluation) may be necessary to assure that conditions have not substantially changed since the letter was issued. If the site and soil conditions are unchanged and meet the criteria contained in the **Experimental Protocol** the site shall be deemed suitable for a Puraflo™ system.

When an application is made to convert an existing Type I or II permit to a Puraflo™ system, no application fee shall be charged as no site evaluation should be necessary. If the documented site and soil conditions indicate the site meets the criteria in the **Experimental Protocol**, the site shall be deemed suitable for a Puraflo™ system.

System design, installation, and operation shall comply with the requirements described in the **Experimental Protocol**, Bord na Mona design, construction and installation literature, the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations and standard engineering practices.

Attachment

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