

SUBCHAPTER E: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
§§222.151, 222.153, 222.155, 222.157,
222.159, 222.161, 222.163
Effective July 5, 2006

§222.151. Prohibitions.

(a) Seepage or percolation out of the root zone, other than leaching in the amount required to maintain the health of the vegetative cover, is prohibited.

(b) Surfacing or ponding of effluent is prohibited.

(c) Creating a condition at the treatment facility or the drip dispersal zones that contributes to vector attraction or odor is prohibited.

Adopted June 14, 2006

Effective July 5, 2006

§222.153. System Flushing.

The permittee shall flush the subsurface area drip dispersal system from the dispersal zone and return the flush water to a point preceding the treatment system at least once every two months.

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Effective July 5, 2006

§222.155. Soil Moisture Monitoring.

(a) The permittee shall comply with any requirement to monitor soil moisture to address specific soil limitations associated with a particular site, if included in the permit by the executive director.

(b) When required by the executive director, the permittee shall:

(1) monitor the soil moisture in each broadly defined soil characterization or soil textures, with at least one sample from each dispersal zone; and

(2) monitor the soil moisture at the one-foot depth, and/or at the level of existing near-surface seasonal or permanent soil saturation when either of these zones of saturation occur within the two-foot depth, below the dispersal zone.

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§222.157. Soil Sampling.

(a) The permittee shall take soil samples within the same 45-day time frame each calendar year.

(b) Laboratory analyses of the soil samples must be submitted to the executive director by September 1 following the sampling date.

(c) The plant nutrient parameters shall be analyzed on a plant available or extractable basis. The permittee shall provide annual soil analyses of the dispersal zones for the following substances:

(1) pH (sample consisting of two volumes of water to one volume of soil mixture), in standard units;

(2) conductivity (sample consisting of two volumes of water to one volume of soil mixture), reported in millimho per centimeter (mmho/cm);

(3) total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN). Methods that rely on mercury as a catalyst are not acceptable;

(4) nitrate-nitrogen;

(5) plant-available potassium, reported on a dry-weight basis in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg);

(6) calcium, reported on a dry-weight basis in mg/kg;

(7) Magnesium, reported on a dry-weight basis in mg/kg;

(8) Sulfur, reported on a dry-weight basis in mg/kg; and

(9) phosphorus, analyzed according to the Mehlich III procedure (the North American Proficiency Testing Program of the Soil Science Society of America) and reported on a dry-weight basis in mg/kg;

(10) sodium, reported on a dry-weight basis in mg/kg;

(11) salinity; and

(12) trace elements as specified in the individual permit.

(d) The permittee shall take samples in:

(1) the zero to 12-inch zone of the soil; and

(2) the 12- to 24-inch zone of soil in the disposal area.

(e) If soil conditions or weather preclude sampling within the time period required, the permittee may submit a request to sample at another time. The request must include justification for the schedule change and the replacement schedule.

(f) Alternate soil sampling depths and frequency may be approved by the executive director if the permittee demonstrates that the alternate depths and frequency sufficiently monitors nutrient levels.

(g) The permittee shall collect soil composite samples from each broadly defined soil characterization or texture, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(h) The permittee shall take at least one composite soil sample from each dispersal zone.

(i) The permittee must comply with any alternate sampling methods or schedules required by the executive director.

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§222.159. Operator Licensing.

(a) The permittee shall ensure that the facility supplying treated domestic wastewater to the subsurface area drip dispersal system and the subsurface area drip dispersal system is operated by a chief operator holding a valid Class A, B, or C wastewater operator license as defined in Chapter 30 of this title (relating to Occupational Licenses and Registrations).

(b) The permittee shall ensure that all wastewater operators have been trained to operate the specific treatment system and subsurface area drip dispersal system for which they have responsibility.

(c) Records of operator training must be made available to agency staff upon request.

(d) Any subsurface area drip dispersal system that utilizes treated domestic effluent and that is permitted under Texas Water Code, Chapter 26 before November 1, 2007, will not be required to have a chief operator with at least a Class C wastewater operator license until November 1, 2008.

Adopted June 14, 2006

Effective July 5, 2006

§222.161. Vegetative Cover.

(a) The vegetative cover must be suited for the specific site characteristics, proposed site usage, and quality of effluent.

(b) The permittee shall plant and maintain a cover crop(s) that provides year-round vegetative growth.

(c) The permittee shall include in the engineering report the specific varieties of vegetation, harvest methods, and harvest frequencies to be utilized in association with the subsurface area drip dispersal system.

(d) The permittee shall maintain records documenting all activities associated with maintaining the vegetative cover, like planting, over-seeding, mowing height, fertilizing, and harvesting. Documentation shall be maintained for a minimum of five years and be made available to commission staff upon request.

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§222.163. Closure Requirements.

(a) The permittee of a subsurface area drip dispersal system that is to be permanently discontinued or abandoned shall close the system under the standards set forth in this section.

(b) If the permittee removes all tanks, lines, and other equipment from the site, the permittee may:

(1) submit to the appropriate regional office a closure report prepared by the permittee that includes sufficient soil analyses to demonstrate that there is no soil contamination at the subsurface area drip dispersal system site; and

(2) omit the requirement to deed record the location of the closed subsurface area drip dispersal system as required by subsection (f) of this section.

(c) The permittee must conduct the closure according to a system closure plan that is prepared by or under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional geoscientist.

(d) The permittee must close the system in a manner that prohibits the movement of fluids into underground sources of drinking water, in compliance with §331.5 of this title (relating to Prevention of Pollution) and 40 Code of Federal Regulations §144.12, concerning Prohibition of Movement of Fluid into Underground Sources of Drinking Water.

(1) The permittee must remove all above ground tanks. The permittee may remove or empty, collapse in place, and cover with clean fill material any underground tanks.

(2) The permittee must cap and remove three feet of the end sections of pipes that convey waste between the pump house and the dispersal lines. The permittee must cut and cap pipes every 500 linear feet between the pump house and the dispersal field.

(3) The permittee shall remove all valves and plug the lines where the valves are located.

(e) If soil, gravel, sludge, liquids, or other materials associated with the system are contaminated, the material must be disposed or otherwise managed in accordance with Chapter 350 of this title (relating to Texas Risk Reduction Program) and all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.

(f) The permittee must deed record the location of the closed subsurface area drip dispersal system in the deed records of the county in which the site is located.

(g) The permittee shall submit within 60 days after closing the system a closure report:

(1) that has been prepared by a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional geoscientist;

(2) that certifies that closure was in accordance with the requirements of this section and in a manner that will prevent pollution; and

(3) includes evidence of deed recordation.

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