TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PTR SECTION STAFF GUIDANCE

SEPARATION DISTANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS OR STORAGE FACILITIES AND A PRIVATE OSSF SPRAYFIELD

Rules Affected: Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC)§290.41(c)(1)(C), and 30 TAC §290.43(b)(1)

Background:

30 TAC §290.41(c)(l)(C) of the current *Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems* states that no public water supply well shall be located within 500 feet of lands irrigated by sewage plant effluent. Sewage plant effluent is not a defined term in the drinking water rules, but is commonly used to denote municipal wastewater facilities, not a private on-site sewage facility (OSSF).

30 TAC §290.43(b)(l) of the current *Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems* states that no elevated storage or ground storage tanks shall be located within 500 feet of lands irrigated by municipal or industrial sewage plant effluent or any land which is spray irrigated with treated sewage effluent or sludge disposal. Similarly, sewage effluent is not a defined term in the drinking water rules, but both it and sludge disposal are commonly used in the context of industrial operations, not a private OSSF.

It is agreed that OSSF sprayfields or drainfields pose much less hazard to public water wells or storage facilities for the following reasons:

1. The peak effluent flow rates are relatively small (<5000 GPD).
2. Effluent quality for private OSSF sprayfields are required to meet a 30-day average of 20 mg/L BOD and TSS.
3. Low angle, non-aerosol spray heads are mandatory.
4. Disinfection is mandatory for most OSSF sprayfields (not mandatory for large land treatments sytems).

Therefore, public water supply wells or storage facilities may be installed no closer than 150 feet from a private OSSF sprayfield, permitted under 30 TAC §290.41(c)(1)(A) and 30 TAC §290.43(b)(4), respectively.

Finalized and Approved by:

Ada Lichaa

Ada Lichaa P.G., Plan and Technical Review Section Manager, 07/22/2014

If no formal expiration date has been established for this staff guidance, it will remain in effect until superseded or canceled.

Revision History:

Date	Action	Action by
08/09/2006	Approved	Buck Henderson
11/22/2013	Revised	Amanda Farley
12/02/2013	Revised	Vera Poe
07/22/2014	Approved	Ada Lichaa