

Rural Development TX AN No.515 (3550)

SUBJECT: Septic System Review

July 8, 1999

TO: All Offices
Rural Development, Texas

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME: This Administrative Notice (AN) is intended to clarify Rural Development procedures for financing on-site sewerage disposal systems. Septic systems used on scattered sites are frequently an operating and maintenance problem. On sites with severe soil limitations, as determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, a standard septic system historically will fail with time.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN: This AN replaces Texas AN No. 505 (1944) which expired on May 31, 1999.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES: Septic systems financed by Rural Development on sites with severe soil limitations, as defined in USDA-NRCS soil survey, will require special design and Rural Development State Office Technical Support Staff review. This review is to protect the Government's security and is not intended to replace the approval and requirements of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

1. On standard systems designed for soils with severe limitations for the operation of septic systems and absorption fields, the following data shall be included with the design:
 - a. Health authority or TNRCC approval of the system.
 - b. Plot plans that include data given in Example Plot Plan No. 2, FmHA Instruction 1924-A, Exhibit C, Attachment 2.
 - c. A site topography map showing the changes in surface height over the total site area and slab elevation.
 - d. A soils map by the USDA-NRCS, with the site located on the map.

EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 2000

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
SFH 3550 Field Office
Handbook, Appendix 7

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- e. Soil classification and a description of the soil profile.
- f. Detail drawing (plans) and specifications of the proposed system. Drawings shall include appropriate dimensions for installation.

- g. A narrative description from the designer stating how this system will overcome the severe soil limitations on the site and that the design complies with the TNRCC requirements.
 - h. When an absorption field is proposed on soils with a very slow rate of percolation, a minimum 30% increase in trench area will be required.
2. Designs submitted to the State Office Technical Support Staff for review shall contain at least the following additional data for innovative systems:
- a. Detailed plans sealed by a registered professional engineer or signed by a registered sanitarian.
 - b. Necessary research data to establish the validity of the process, including instruction for set-up of the proposed system.
 - c. Operation and maintenance instructions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lee Wiederhold, P.E., Technical Support Staff, (254) 742-9790.

/s/ Steven A. Carriker

STEVEN A. CARRIKER
State Director