

RFEI for A DEMONSTRATION OF INNOVATIVE ALTERNATIVE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

Questions and Answers: May 1, 2014

Question 1: *The outline states with an asterisk that the county plans a General Use approval with NSF 245 by the end of the year. Does this mean that units with an NSF 245 certification would not have to participate in the field study at all?*

Answer 1: After review of the required information to be submitted with the RFEI application, Suffolk County may permit Applicant to install up to 5 demonstration systems when proper County and/or State approvals are obtained. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) has refined the projected steps required to obtain approval for an innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment systems in Suffolk County. When the approval process is implemented it will consist of three phases: Pilot Systems, Provisional Approval, and General Use Approval. The tables and timeline below represent the general approval process overview. Generally, systems installed under this RFEI which have NSF 245 certification or ETV certification (and have provisional or general approval in a comparable jurisdiction with a minimum of 15 systems installed in that jurisdiction with 2 years of sampling data that meets Suffolk County requirements) may be permitted to fast track the pilot installation phase subject to SCDHS evaluation of system operation and sample results. When the approval process is implemented, Applicants with systems that have NSF 245 or ETV certification are required to follow the standard approval process unless participating in the RFEI demonstration then they may be eligible to fast track the pilot phase per above.

Standard Innovative Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Approval Process			
	<i>Pilot Systems</i>	<i>Provisional Approval</i>	<i>General Use Approval</i>
# Systems Req'd	5 to 15	50	50+
Months of Sampling	0 to 18	36	n/a

Approval Process for Innovative Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Installed As Part Of The RFEI W/ NSF 245 certification or ETV certification (and have provisional or general approval in a comparable jurisdiction with a minimum of 15 systems installed in that jurisdiction with 2 years of sampling data that meets Suffolk County requirements)			
	<i>Pilot Systems</i>	<i>Provisional Approval</i>	<i>General Use Approval</i>
# Systems Req'd	1 to 5	50	50+
Months of Sampling	0 to 6	24	n/A

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I/A OWTS Piloting and Demonstration to General Approval Proposed Timelines	
Suffolk County Department of Health Services	
Draft: 5/1/2014	
Standard Approval Model (Including New Technology Piloting)	
Months	3 6 9 12 15 18 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36
Install first 5 pilot systems	0 to 3 months
Bi-monthly Sampling 15 systems maximum	0 to 18 months
Install first 50 systems under provisional approval	12 to 18 months
This time period will vary	12 to 30 months
Continue to install under provisional approval	18 to 30 months
Quarterly sampling	12 to 30 months
General use approval	30 to 36 months
O&M Contract that includes annual sampling	30 to 36 months
RFEI Accelerated Approval Model for Participating NSF 245/ETV - Approved Technology	
Months	3 6* 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24*
Install 1 to 5 Demonstration systems	0 to 3 months
Monthly Sampling	0 to 6 months
Install first 50 systems under provisional approval	6 to 12 months
This time period will vary	6 to 18 months
Continue to install under provisional approval	12 to 18 months
Quarterly sampling	6 to 18 months
General use approval	18 to 24 months
O&M Contract that includes annual sampling	18 to 24 months
* The shortened time frame may apply to systems with NSF245 or ETV approval that have provisional or general approval in a comparable jurisdiction and have a minimum of 15 systems installed with 2 years of performance and sampling data that meets Suffolk County requirements. The accelerated approval timeline is being considered due to the existing data, the local demonstration system(s), additional monitoring to system steady state and training of SCDHS staff	

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Question 2: *If a treatment system has not been approved by NSF, ETV or NYS then could it still be considered?*

Answer 2: Yes, an innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment systems that has not received NSF 245 or ETV certification may be demonstrated under the “County Facilities Demonstration Program” as outlined in the RFEI.

Question 3: *Would you consider adding to the RFEI systems that have passed NSF 245, ETV or MD BAT?*

Answer 3: At this time systems with NSF 245 or ETV certifications may apply for the “Residential Demonstration Program”. All other systems must apply for the “County Facilities Demonstration Program”.

Question 4: *If a technology is originally submitted without NSF 245 or ETV certification and subsequently obtains NSF 245 Certification in 2015 must the system be required to complete the pilot installation or will it move directly to provisional use?*

Answer 4: As stated in the answer to question 1, systems installed under this RFEI “Residential Demonstration Program” which have NSF 245 certification or ETV certification (and have provisional or general approval in a comparable jurisdiction with a minimum of 15 systems installed in that jurisdiction with 2 years of sampling data that meets Suffolk County requirements) may be permitted to fast track the pilot installation phase subject to SCDHS evaluation of system operation and sample results. Therefore, if a system enters the demonstration without NSF 245 or ETV certification as part of the “County Facilities Demonstration Program” and obtains one of those certifications at a later date and before the demonstration project is complete then that system may be eligible to fast track the pilot installation phase of the Suffolk County approval process subject to SCDHS evaluation of system operation and sample results.

Question 5: *The outline states that the Applicant would be responsible for demonstrating their unit with no cost to participating homeowners. Does that mean just the cost of the treatment unit itself? Cost of all tanks? Cost for the drain field? Cost for labor? Cost for design?*

Answer 5: The Applicant would be responsible for providing their unit at no cost, which includes the treatment component, septic tank, leaching field/pool, labor, design, sampling, etc.

Question 6: *Who is responsible for sampling and those costs?*

Answer 6: The Applicant of the innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system is required to obtain samples and pay for the samples.

Question 7: *What parameters will be sampled?*

Answer 7: The Applicant is required to prepare a sampling methodology for sampling effluent total nitrogen, BOD, and total suspended solids. The methodology must meet or exceed the sampling

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protocols specified by SCDHS. In addition, Applicants are responsible for hiring a NYS certified laboratory to take the effluent samples. Samples should be composite samples taken over a 24hr period at the point of discharge to the leaching field/pool. The sampling methodology is subject to the approval of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Question 8: *Would the Suffolk County consider treatment tiers of (50%, 75%, or 90+%) nitrogen removal.*

Answer 8: The systems to be installed under the RFEI must be capable of removing 50% nitrogen as compared to effluent from a standard septic tank. Therefore, septic tank effluent total nitrogen is assumed to be 39mg/l, which means the systems proposed must produce an effluent total nitrogen of 19mg/l or less.

Question 9: *For systems that recirculate to achieve denitrification, how does Suffolk County plan to get a representative influent sample?*

Answer 9: Applicants are not required to obtain influent samples (See Answer 8).

Question 10: *If there is a soil based treatment system then it may be more difficult to sample. Are there requirements for sampling those types of systems?*

Answer 10: The Applicant will be required to establish a sampling methodology to obtain effluent total nitrogen, BOD, and total suspended solid samples from soil based treatment systems. The methodology must meet or exceed the sampling protocols specified by SCDHS. Proposed sampling methodologies are subject to the approval of SCDHS.

Question 11: *What types of statistical evaluation must be used when evaluating system performance?*

Answer 11: SCDHS will evaluate the performance of a system based on the mean of all sample results taken from all installations of a given system. As part of the standard approval process and as depicted in answer 1 approval timeline 75% of the pilot systems are required to meet treatment requirements for at least 12 months in order to obtain provisional approval. General use approval may be obtained when 90% of the provisional systems meet treatment requirements for at least 36 months.

Question 12: *Once the project is complete then what is the result? (If the product passes then the product is "approved" for use in Suffolk County?)*

Answer 12: Under the innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system approval process Applicants will be permitted to install up to 5 demonstration systems. As stated in the answer to question 1, systems installed under this RFEI "Residential Demonstration Program" which have NSF 245 certification or ETV certification (and have provisional or general approval in a comparable jurisdiction with a minimum of 15 systems installed in that jurisdiction with 2 years of sampling data that meets Suffolk County requirements) may be permitted to fast track the pilot installation phase subject to SCDHS evaluation of system operation and sample results.

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Systems installed under the “County Facilities Demonstration Program” will be used as part of the standard approval model.

Question 13: *What is the project timeline?*

Answer 13: RFEI applications are due on May 16, 2014. Suffolk County anticipates selected systems to be installed by the end of August 2014.

Question 14: *Has an engineering firm been hired to conduct any feasibility studies for extending sewers?*

Answer 14: Suffolk County has performed and has ongoing studies evaluating the feasibility of extending sewers in certain parts of Suffolk County. In addition, Suffolk County is in the process preparing a RFP to ascertain a consultant to specify the recommended means of wastewater treatment for each parcel in the County (sewering, cluster decentralized treatment system, conventional onsite septic system, and innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system).

Question 15: *What are the means by which Suffolk County would require homeowners to upgrade their system to an innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system?*

Answer 15: Suffolk County will initially permit the use of innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system by homeowners voluntarily wishing to install them. In addition Suffolk County will evaluate the need for homeowners to upgrade their system to an innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment system in the future.

Question 16: *The homes that will receive the treatment system, are they new construction or are they planned to be homes with failing septic systems?*

Answer 16: Homes with existing sanitary systems are planned to be retrofitted with the innovative alternative onsite wastewater treatment systems as part of the RFEI demonstration.

Question 17: *Why is the company financial data required? The Applicants are private companies and would consider this confidential information.*

Answer 17: The financial data is required to determine the stability of the Applicant and predict the ability of the Applicant to maintain operations into the future in order to provide technical services and parts to consumers of their products within Suffolk County.