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TO: Environmental Public Health Specialist Vs  
Local Public Health Agencies and other Agencies with interest in On-site Sewage

FROM: Gary McNutt, Director  
Section for Environmental Public Health

SUBJECT: Polystyrene Aggregate Absorption Field Product

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A review has been made of the EZflow brand product configuration known as 1201. EZflow 1201 consists of one twelve-inch diameter bundle containing a 4-inch diameter perforated plastic pipe, and polystyrene aggregate. Bundles are ten feet long and are joined end to end by an internal coupling device for installation in lateral trenches. A review found that according to the product specifications, the 4-inch diameter polyethylene drainpipe meets the required applicable standard, ASTM F405. Published evaluations report various other EZflow system configurations, in general, had been functioning for up to seven years in other states. Submitted test reports indicate that the storage volume and infiltrative surface of the EZflow 1201 product are comparable to a 10-inch gravelless absorption field pipe. Following are general guidelines that should be used when reviewing an application for a proposed system using this product.

Installation of the EZflow product must comply with the minimum installation requirements for gravelless pipe systems found in 19 CSR 20-3.060(5)(A)15.A through D, and with all manufacturers specifications that do not conflict with the standards. Specifically, the site and soils must be classified as suitable or provisionally suitable or have an acceptable percolation rate and allow for the required vertical separation to limiting soil horizons. This product should not be approved for sites or soils if another conventional system could not be approved. The absorption field product should be installed in 18 to 24 inch wide trenches with shallow trench bottom depths of 18 to 24 inches recommended. The most suitable backfill soil material available should be used. Clayey backfill is not recommended. The backfill should be mounded over the trench to allow for settling and ensure a minimum of six inches of cover as specified by the manufacturer.

Provided a proposed system design, as a whole, complies with the minimum standards, the design including this product should be based on the same length required for two-foot wide gravel trenches, as stated in the manufacturer's product installation instructions. Other EZflow product configurations have not been reviewed, and if proposed should be considered equivalent to a pipe and gravel trench, on a one to one square foot basis.