

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**LIQUID WASTE PROGRAM**

**GUIDANCE NUMBER 6:** Voluntary Installation of Advanced Treatment Units

**I. PURPOSE:**

This guidance is provided to clarify the requirements for advanced treatment units installed but not required to be installed by the liquid waste regulation (20.7.3 NMAC).

**II. APPLICABILITY:**

This guidance applies to all advanced treatment units installed on sites where only a conventional septic system is required.

**III. GENERAL:**

The liquid waste regulation requires specific monitoring and maintenance requirements for advanced treatment units installed to overcome a siting condition. However, individuals may install advance treatment units on sites where a conventional septic system would be authorized.

**IV. GUIDANCE STATEMENT:**

Section 20.7 .3.901B, C and D NMAC, **MONITORING**, states:

B. On-site liquid waste systems that require secondary treatment levels be achieved shall be sampled and analyzed only for 5-day BOD quarterly for the first year, semi-annually for the second year, and yearly thereafter or as otherwise required by the department to meet the requirements of the permit. Chemical oxygen demand (COD) may be substituted for BOD5 with an acceptable calibration curve as approved by the department.

C. On-site liquid waste systems that require tertiary treatment levels be achieved shall be sampled and analyzed only for total nitrogen quarterly for the first year, semi-annually for the second year, and yearly thereafter or as otherwise required by the department to meet the requirements of the permit.

D. Advanced systems requiring disinfection shall be sampled and analyzed for fecal coliform quarterly for the first year, semi-annually for the second year, and yearly thereafter or as otherwise required by the department.

The key phrase in each of these sections is 'that require'. Systems that require a specific performance level be achieved shall be monitored as indicated. Conversely, these sections do not require systems that are not required to meet a specific performance level to be sampled.

Section 20.7 .3.902A and B NMAC, **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF TRANSFER**, states:

A. The owner of an on-site liquid waste system, including systems existing prior to the effective date of this regulation, shall be responsible for properly operating and maintaining the system in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer or designer of the system

B. The owner of an advanced treatment system installed after the effective date of this regulation shall enter into a department approved maintenance contract with a maintenance service provider that will assume maintenance of the system in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer or designer of the system. A maintenance contract shall be in effect at all times.

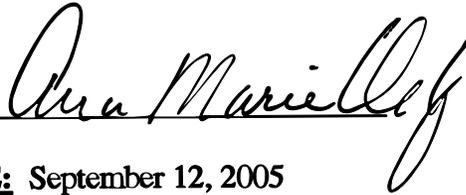
These sections do not exempt advanced treatment systems installed where conventional systems may be authorized from being operated and maintained properly.

Therefore, an advanced treatment system installed in lieu of a conventional system on sites where a conventional system may be installed shall be required to:

- Be operated as it was permitted, i.e. the mode of operation cannot be changed at a later date without a modification to the permit; and
- a maintenance contract shall be in force at all times.

**V. APPROVAL:**

Approved by FOD Director



**VI. EFFECTIVE DATE: September 12, 2005**