

**TITLE 20 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**CHAPTER 7 WASTE WATER AND WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES**  
**PART 3 LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT**

**20.7.3.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board.  
[20.7.3.1 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.1 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.2 SCOPE:**

A. This part, 20.7.3 NMAC, applies to on-site liquid waste systems, and effluent from such systems, that are designed to receive and do receive two thousand (2,000) gallons or less of liquid waste per day, and that do not generate discharges that require a discharge plan pursuant to 20.6.2 NMAC or a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit.

B. 20.7.3.306 and 809 NMAC apply to the disposal of on-site septage and holding tank wastes.  
[20.7.3.2 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.2 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** NMSA 1978, Sections 74-1-6, 74-1-7(A)(3), 74-1-8(A)(3), and 74-1-9(Repl. Pamp 1993 and Cum. Supp. 1997).  
[20.7.3.3 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.3 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.4 DURATION:** Permanent.  
[20.7.3.4 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.4 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2005, except where a later effective date is indicated in the history note at the end of a section.  
[20.7.3.5 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.5 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.6 OBJECTIVE:** To protect the health and welfare of present and future citizens of New Mexico by providing for the prevention and abatement of public health hazards and surface and ground water contamination from on-site liquid waste disposal practices.  
[20.7.3.6 NMAC - Rp, 20.7.3.6 NMAC, 9/1/05]

**20.7.3.7 DEFINITIONS:** As used in 20.7.3 NMAC.

- A. Terms starting with the letter 'A' are defined as follows:
- (1) "absorption area" means the area in square feet of infiltrative surface in a soil disposal system designated to receive effluent from a treatment unit;
  - (2) "advanced treatment" means any process of wastewater treatment that removes a greater amount of contaminants than is accomplished through primary treatment; advanced treatment may include physical or chemical processes;
  - (3) "aggregate" means clean washed gravel (no greater than 4% fines by weight), clean crushed rock, proprietary or other media reviewed by the technical advisory committee and approved by the department; "aggregate" shall have a minimum size of 3/4 inch and a maximum size of 2 1/2 inches and provide no less than 35% void space under field conditions; the aggregate shall be durable, inert, and shall have a hardness value of 3 or more on the Mohs scale of hardness so it will maintain its integrity, not collapse or disintegrate with time, and not be detrimental to the performance of the system;
  - (4) "alternative disposal" means any approved on-site liquid waste disposal method used in lieu of, including modifications to, a conventional disposal method; these include but are not limited to, mounds, evapotranspiration beds, and pressure dosed systems;
  - (5) "amendment of permit" means a change that does not affect the permissibility of a liquid waste system, including a change of ownership, and is not a "modification" as defined in this section;
  - (6) "approved" means:
    - (a) materials, products or procedures that have been reviewed by the technical advisory committee, if required, and accepted for use by the department;
    - (b) a liquid waste system that was permitted, constructed and installed in compliance with the standards and requirements of this regulation; or

