

**Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Program**  
**Use of Dispersal Trench and Approved Alternative Leachfields**  
**With Approved A-E Advanced Treatment Systems**

October 2, 2008

Effective immediately for all New Building Construction, Alteration and Repair Applications, RIDEM announces the following changes to applicable Alternative – Experimental Technology Certifications concerning requirements for use of pressurized shallow narrow drainfields (PSNDs) or bottomless sand filters (BSFs) with RIDEM approved nitrogen removal OWTS technologies in the Salt Pond and Narrow River Critical Resource Areas:

Dispersal trench (or conventional leachfield) and approved alternative leachfield technologies may be used in the design of any OWTS in the Salt Pond and Narrow River Critical Resource Area provided that the leachfield design complies with all setback and design requirements of the OWTS Rules. Designs employing a reduced leachfield area as may be allowed pursuant to the applicable A-E advanced treatment technology certification must show the 100% leachfield area on the plans and demonstrate compliance with all setbacks required by the OWTS Rules. Designs for Repair applications are not required to show the 100% leachfield area.

Please note that the use of dispersal trenches (conventional leachfields) in the Salt Pond and Narrow River Critical Resource Areas will not likely be allowed where a variance application to any minimum standard is required. For single family residential applications, the designer should employ a pressurized shallow narrow drain field (PSND) or bottomless sand filter (BSF). If a design using a dispersal trench or alternative leachfield cannot meet the minimum setback standards contained in the OWTS Rules, the Department will require consideration of alternate designs – including a reduction in project scale for new construction and other projects which propose an increase in wastewater flow – that would enable compliance or substantial compliance with the OWTS Rules prior to or as part of any application for variance to the minimum setback standards contained in said Rules.

Please also note that should any language above deviate from that contained in any A-E technology certification, the provisions given herein shall apply to that certification.