



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Alternative/Experimental OWTS Technology Program

Vendor Information:

SeptiTech/Bio-Microbics Maine Inc.
69 Holland Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240
Web: www.septitech.com

Vendor Contact:

Tracey H. Rioux, President
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Technology Type:

*Class Two Approval (Waste Strength Reduction
Only – Non “D” Models)*

TSS \leq 20 mg/L
BOD \leq 20 mg/L
Oil & Grease \leq 5 mg/L

*Class Two Approval (Waste Strength Reduction
and Nitrogen Reduction – “D” Models)*

Total Nitrogen \leq 19 mg/L
TSS \leq 20 mg/L
BOD \leq 20 mg/L
Oil & Grease \leq 5 mg/L

Technology Name & Model Numbers:

STAAR 0.5 and 0.5D (500 GPD)
STAAR 0.75 and 0.75D (750 GPD)
STAAR 1.0 and 1.0D (1,000 GPD)
STAAR 1.2 and 1.2D (1,200 GPD)
STAAR 1.5 and 1.5D (1,500 GPD)
STAAR 3.0 and 3.0D (3,000 GPD)
STAAR 4.5 and 4.5D (4,500 GPD)
STAAR 6.0 and 6.0D (6,000 GPD)
STAAR 9.0 and 9.0D (9,000 GPD)
STAAR 13.5 and 13.5D (13,500 GPD)
STAAR 18 and 18D (18,000 GPD)
STAAR 24 and 24D (24,000 GPD)

Pretreatment Category:

Category 1: Timed-Dosed

Design Authority:

CI-II Licensed Designers & RI-PEs

Certification Dates:

Approved: November 22, 2021
Expires: November 22, 2026

CERTIFICATION

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) hereby renews the Class Two Alternative Technology approval for Septitech, Inc.’s Smart Trickling Anaerobic/Aerobic Recirculating (STAAR™) Media Filter treatment system hereafter referred to as the “System”.

The System is an aerobic biological trickling filter that is a two-tank design with a primary anoxic tank (a septic tank) followed by the aerobic trickling filter tank (the processor tank). Raw wastewater enters and passes through the primary anoxic tank to a reservoir beneath treatment media in the aerobic processor tank. The wastewater is aerated and sprayed onto the media; a programmable logic controller (PLC) controls the timing and sequence of the recirculation of wastewater in the lower collection reservoir. A portion of the wastewater is pumped back to the septic tank; this process is self-adjusting based on demand and is controlled by the PLC. Treated wastewater is time dosed to a leachfield. Based upon information contained in the application submitted by SeptiTech, Inc., hereafter referred to as the Vendor, the RIDEM hereby renews the System’s placement on the RIDEM Alternative/Experimental Technology List.

The RIDEM recognizes the System as a Category 1 pre-treatment technology as defined in the Rules Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Onsite

Wastewater Treatment Systems (the OWTS Rules), as amended. Category 1 technologies are advanced treatment units that are timed-dosed and have been classified by the RIDEM to at least meet effluent standards of ≤ 20 mg/L for TSS and BOD and ≤ 5 mg/L for Oil and Grease. The RIDEM recognizes the System as capable of achieving these treatment levels for all approved Models. The RIDEM recognizes the System as capable of achieving effluent concentrations of ≤ 20 mg/L for TSS and BOD, ≤ 5 mg/L for Oil and Grease, and ≤ 19 mg/L Total Nitrogen for all “D” Models.

Design and installation of the System shall be in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

I. General Design Requirements

1. The System is approved for waste strength reduction commercial and residential use at all design flows. See Vendor’s design manual for appropriate model-specific design flows.
2. The System is approved for waste strength reduction and nitrogen reduction when “D” models are utilized for all commercial and residential uses at all design flows. See Vendor’s design manual for appropriate model specific applications and design flows. The total nitrogen concentration in the effluent as measured at the distribution box or pump chamber prior to the leachfield shall not exceed 19 mg/L for all “D” models.
3. All commercial designs over 4500 GPD and proposed uses that generate high-strength wastewater must be reviewed and deemed acceptable to the Vendor prior to submitting a construction permit application to the RIDEM. For existing facilities RIDEM will require sampling and testing of the wastewater. If an application is submitted for a new facility an estimate/projection of wastewater characteristics will be required.
4. Design shall be in strict conformance with the RIDEM-approved Design Manual dated: **October 21, 2021**.
5. Installation shall be in strict conformance with the RIDEM-approved Installation Manual dated **October 21, 2021**.
6. Septic tanks used with the System shall conform to the requirements of the OWTS Rules and be equipped with a RIDEM approved septic tank effluent filter/screen.
7. The processor tank shall provide a surge storage capacity of a minimum of 1/3 of the daily design flow.
8. The control panel must incorporate an event counter, an elapsed-time meter and a visible and audible pump/power failure warning indicator in a NEMA approved cabinet installed exterior to the building. All systems shall be designed with a programmable logic controller.
9. Designs incorporating this System and a conventional leachfield shall be allowed a 50% reduction in the required leachfield size. This reduction is based upon the ability of the System to remove BOD and suspended solids as demonstrated by the data presented in the Vendor’s submittal. No reduction in leachfield size shall be allowed for non-conventional leachfields.
10. System tanks, dosing chambers, pumping chambers, and riser assemblies shall be certified watertight by the manufacturer or field-tested and certified watertight using procedures set forth in the OWTS Rules. Riser assemblies and access manholes shall be installed and maintained at grade.
11. Design and installation shall be in strict conformance with the RIDEM-approved System design and installation manuals and shall only be performed by a Rhode Island licensed designer/installer who has received training and is authorized in writing by the Vendor to design/install the System.
12. In addition to other approved leachfield options allowed by regulation, the effluent from the System may be discharged to a pressure-dosed shallow-narrow drain field provided the latter is designed in accordance with the OWTS Rules.

13. Each System design shall meet all other applicable OWTS standards and receive prior approval by the RIDEM pursuant to the regulations in effect at the time of application.

II. Training

1. The Vendor shall make training available for designers, installers, and service providers.
2. The Vendor shall notify the RIDEM of the date and time of each training seminar and submit to the RIDEM a detailed agenda, material to be distributed to attendees and a list of presenters specifying their credentials at least six weeks in advance of the date of the scheduled seminar. Please consult the RIDEM-issued requirements for Vendors' system training available on the RIDEM website in the A/E technology section.
3. The Vendor shall make available to the public, a means of verifying individuals, by name and category, who have received training and are authorized in writing by the Vendor to design, install, and maintain the System.

III. General Certification Requirements

1. This Class Two certification shall be effective until its expiration and may be renewed according to the provisions of the OWTS Rules, as amended.
2. The Vendor shall submit a manual detailing design, installation, operation and maintenance requirements for the System.
3. The Vendor is responsible for providing any revisions to the design, installation, operation and maintenance manual(s) for all models applicable to this certification to RIDEM for review and approval within thirty (30) days of RIDEM request. All manuals must be provided to the RIDEM in electronic portable document format (pdf).
4. The Vendor shall notify the RIDEM in writing of any changes to the System, including its discontinuation. Modifications deemed by the RIDEM to be substantial, may require re-application to the alternative/experimental program.
5. The Vendor shall notify the RIDEM at least 30 days prior to any proposed transfer of ownership of the System. Notification shall include the name and address of the new owner and a written agreement between the existing and new owner specifying a date for transfer of ownership, responsibility, and liability for the System. All provisions of this approval shall be applicable to any new owners.
6. The Vendor shall provide any purchaser of the System with a copy of this approval prior to the sale of the System.

IV. Operation and Maintenance Requirements

1. Operation and maintenance of the System shall be performed in strict conformance with the RIDEM approved Operation and Maintenance Manual dated **October 21, 2021**.
2. The RIDEM approved O&M Manual shall be provided to the Owner/Operator.
3. Installations of the System shall be maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.
4. For seasonally used installations of the System, the Vendor shall provide specifications for protection of the System and the biological component from freezing, and conditions under which power to the System may be turned off.
5. The Vendor must offer for sale a minimum two-year service contract, which must include as an option, service to all components of the treatment train in addition to the System.
6. The Applicant/Owner shall record copies of the OWTS construction permit issued by RIDEM and the initially executed O&M contract(s) for the System, and all other A/E components in the treatment train, in the land evidence records of the applicable city or town prior to the RIDEM issuing the Certificate of Conformance for each installation.


7.
 - a) The owner shall retain a public or private maintenance entity (service provider) for the life of the System and all other A/E components of the treatment train; a Vendor-authorized owner functioning as service provider is exempt from this for the System and any components of the treatment train for which the owner is providing service.
 - b) No agreement with a maintenance entity shall be for less than two years. A service contract must remain active during the life of the system.
 - c) Service providers must be trained and authorized in writing by the appropriate Vendor to perform O&M on the System and all other A/E components of the treatment train for which they will be performing O&M.
 - d) System owners who are authorized by the appropriate Vendor(s) to perform O&M on their own system's components must file a Vendor-authorization for each component for which they are performing O&M service.
 - e) The service provider or system owner providing O&M on his or her own System shall:
 - (1) Receive training as approved by the Vendor.
 - (2) Be available to perform required preventative maintenance, perform repairs, respond to System emergency situations, and conduct performance monitoring when required by this Certification or by permit.
 - (3) Perform an inspection of the treatment System at least twice annually for residential systems with an approved design flow of $\leq 2,000$ gallons per day. Inspections must be performed quarterly for any residential systems with an approved design flow of $\geq 2,000$ gallons per day. Inspections must be performed quarterly for all commercial systems.
8. The Vendor shall have an inventory of System replacement parts available locally.
9. The Vendor shall make available to the public the names of at least two qualified and properly trained service providers.

V. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. For permits issued utilizing the System with an approved design flow of $\geq 2,000$ gallons per day the system owner is responsible for compliance with the following additional requirements. Wastewater effluent must achieve concentrations of ≤ 19 mg/L for Total Nitrogen prior to discharge to the soil treatment area when required by the OWTS Rules. Wastewater effluent must achieve the following effluent concentrations of ≤ 20 mg/L for TSS and BOD and ≤ 5 mg/L for Oil and Grease prior to discharge to the soil treatment area in all areas of the State of Rhode Island. Wastewater flow shall be monitored and recorded to ensure the approved design flow is not exceeded. In addition, sampling and testing shall be conducted quarterly for the following parameters: Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L), Effluent Temperature ($^{\circ}$ F), pH (s.u.), Biochemical Oxygen Demand – 5-Day (mg/L), and Total Suspended Solids (mg/L), Oil and Grease (mg/L), and Alkalinity (mg/L). Sampling and testing shall be conducted quarterly for Total Nitrogen (mg/L) when Nitrogen reduction is required by the OWTS Rules. All monitoring results including wastewater flow data shall be submitted to the RIDEM in the form of an annual report. The annual report is due February 15th of each year. The annual report must summarize all monitoring results and corrective actions implemented during the previous calendar year. A clear determination regarding the compliance status of the OWTS must be made as part of the annual report. The annual report must include a copy of the most recent Operation and Maintenance contract as proof of compliance with the requirement to maintain an active contract throughout the life of the OWTS.

VI. Rights of the RIDEM

1. The RIDEM may suspend, modify or revoke this approval for cause, including but not limited to: non-compliance with any of the provisions or conditions of this Certification, misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant data, or receipt of new information indicating that the use of the System is contrary to the public interest, public health or the environment.
2. The design, installation, and operation and maintenance manuals referenced herein are approved upon the date of approval of this Certification.
3. The RIDEM reserves the right to suspend or revoke this Certification if updated design, installation, and O&M manuals are not provided to the RIDEM within thirty (30) days of RIDEM request or one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration date of this Certification. All revisions must be reviewed and approved by the RIDEM.
4. This approval does not represent an endorsement of the System by the RIDEM. This letter of approval may be reproduced only in its entirety.


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11-22-2021
Issuance Date