RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

Office of Water Resources – ISDS Program – April 2007

Designer / Soil Evaluator Examination Eligibility

Obtaining a Designer / Soil Evaluator License
Any person seeking a license under these regulations will be required to pass the appropriate examination administered by the Department. Each applicant for an examination shall submit a completed application to DEM, which shall include the non-refundable examination application fee of $50. In the event that a person fails an examination, there shall be a $50 fee for each subsequent time an examination is taken. There is no waiting term before which an examination may be taken again, nor is there a maximum number of times an examination may be taken.

Eligibility to Apply for a Licensing Examination
In order to qualify for an examination, the applicant must demonstrate to the Department with appropriate documentation that the minimum qualifications below are met for the respective examination:

Class I Designer -- A valid license authorizing the installation of ISDSs pursuant to RI General Laws Chapter 5-56, or registration as a Professional Land Surveyor with the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors, or Registration as a Professional Engineer with the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. Professional Engineers registered in Rhode Island after December 31, 1994 must be registered as a Civil Engineer or Environmental Engineer.

Class II Designer -- Registration as a Professional Land Surveyor with the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors or Registration as a Professional Engineer with the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. Professional Engineers registered in Rhode Island after December 31, 1994 must be registered as a Civil Engineer or Environmental Engineer.

Class III Designer -- Registration as a Professional Engineer with the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. Professional Engineers registered in Rhode Island after December 31, 1994 must be registered as a Civil Engineer or Environmental Engineer.

Class IV Designer (Soil Evaluator) -- The minimum qualifications for the Class IV exam shall be satisfied by meeting any one of the following:

(i) Registration as a professional soil scientist by the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England or the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils; or

(ii) 4 years professional experience in soil studies and percolation testing for septic system design in Rhode Island or in soil classification, mapping, interpretation or a combination thereof; and successful completion of 9 semester hours in soil science from an accredited college or university; or

(iii) 2 years professional experience in soil studies and percolation testing for septic system design in Rhode Island or in soil classification, mapping, interpretation or a combination thereof; and a bachelor's degree or graduate degree from an accredited college or university in soil science, geology, engineering or similar discipline with successful completion of 9 semester hours in soil science.

An examination for each of the license classes is administered once per year.

Minimum passing score for an examination shall be a 70 percent correct response for all questions comprising the examination.