

**OPERATIONAL PERMITS AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
ADVANCED TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

**Purpose:** To provide for the issuance of operational permits and for the maintenance of advanced treatment systems used for on site sewage management systems. The current Department of Human Resources Manual for On Site Sewage Management Systems requires regular maintenance of such systems as credible research has shown that such systems must be properly maintained in order to prevent failure, which would create a public health hazard. Significant areas of land in the state of Georgia are poorly suited for conventional on-site sewage management systems. The rules allow the use of certain alternative systems designed for these type soils. Therefore, development of areas considered unsuitable for conventional systems may be possible, while protecting the public's health, welfare and safety. The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) Title 31-3-5(b)(6) provides authority to the county board of health for these rules.

**Definitions:**

- a. "Advanced Treatment Systems" shall mean a system approved by the Department of Human Resources meeting Class I effluent requirements as established by the most current ANSI/NSF Standard 40 testing requirements.
- b. "County Board of Health" shall mean the Hall County Board of Health or its designee as defined in the Department of Human Resources Rules and Regulations for On Site Sewage Management Systems, Chapter 290-5-26-.02(s) and established by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Title 31-3-1.
- c. "Department" shall mean the Department of Human Resources of the state of Georgia or its designee.
- d. "Maintenance Contractor" shall mean an individual or company, meeting all requirements of the product manufacturer to service and perform maintenance on advanced treatment systems.
- e. "Permits":
  - (1) Construction permit shall mean a permit to begin construction and installation of an on site sewage management system as defined in Chapter 290-5-26-.03(2).
  - (2) Operating Permit shall mean a permit to operate an advanced treatment system used in conjunction with an on-site sewage management system, which is renewed on an annual basis.
- f. "Manual" shall mean the Manual for On Site Sewage Management Systems as defined in the Department's Rules and Regulations for On Site Sewage Management Systems, Chapter 290-5-26-.02(ee).

### **Operating Permit Requirements:**

1. An annual operating permit shall be required for Advanced Treatment Systems and all components thereof.
2. The Hall County Board of Health may issue an initial operating permit after the following information has been completed:
  - a. Inspection and approval of the septic installation.
  - b. A copy of the applicable manufacturer's warranty and service agreement is provided.
  - c. Other documentation as reasonably required by the Hall County Board of Health to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public.
  - d. Must meet all other requirements of the Departments On-Site Sewage Manual.
3. Renewal of the operating permit shall be required on the anniversary of the issuance of said permit.
4. The Hall County Board of Health shall annually renew the operating permit after the county environmental health department establishes full compliance.
5. The system owner shall be responsible for compliance with all the maintenance requirements set forth in the Manual, which is incorporated herewith in pertinent part. Proof of compliance shall be provided to the county environmental health department prior to the renewal date.
6. As a regulatory matter and in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, current owners of pre-existing advanced treatment systems shall be required to obtain an operating permit when the system is replaced, repaired or modified.
7. Upon sale or transfer of the property served by an Advanced Treatment System, a notification should be filed with the deed stating that the property's on-site sewage management system utilizes an Advanced Treatment System and will require regularly scheduled maintenance.

### **Permit Renewal Requirements:**

1. Owners of an Advanced Treatment System are responsible for renewing their annual operating permit. The following information must be submitted and in compliance before the permit renewal date:
  - a. Copy of the current and renewal service agreement.
  - b. Copy of the maintenance contractor's certification.
  - c. Copies of the service inspection reports.If the proper paperwork is submitted as required, the environmental health office will mail the renewal of the operating permit to the current homeowner.
2. If the proper paperwork is not submitted prior to the renewal date, the environmental health office will notify the owner. If the paperwork is turned in within 30 days of notification and is in compliance, the Advanced Treatment Systems Operating Permit will be renewed and mailed to the current homeowner.
3. If the proper paperwork is not turned in within 30 days or is not in compliance, a re-inspection will be performed. The current re-inspection fee will be applicable. The department will notify the current owner that the operating permit is revoked and initiate enforcement action.

**Maintenance Contractor Requirements:**

1. The following criteria shall be required for maintenance contractors:
  - a. Be certified by the manufacturer to perform service with written documentation provided to the county environmental health department, OR
  - b. Have equivalent certification as established by the Department.

**Maintenance Requirements:**

1. The Advanced Treatment System shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer requirements and all applicable state rules and regulations.
2. The absorption field shall be maintained in a manner to prevent any prohibited discharge of effluent.
3. A field inspection report that specifies the areas of inspection, and has been approved by the county environmental health department shall be used.