

PADEP Guidance Document on Land Treatment of Wastewater

Bureau of Clean Water
September 2026





Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Agenda

- Introduction
- Revision Topics
- Prior WRAC Involvement
- Comments received from the public



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Introduction

- Purpose
- Overview
- Impact on Regulated Community



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Revision Topics

- Reorganized content in a logical progression
- Added definitions
- Dedicated a section to planning
- Revised Project Flowchart to include more detail including what and when information is required



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Revision Topics

- Provided detailed design information for spray irrigation systems
- Added drip irrigation technology
- Eliminated systems that are not used in PA including rapid infiltration, moveable sprinkler systems for spray, flooding/inundation systems, overland flow, and constructed wetlands
- Included section on permitting



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Prior WRAC Involvement

- Manual updates were presented to WRAC on March 16, 2023
- Department received WRAC comments on April 13, 2023
- The comments received consisted of suggestions for improvements or clarification, typographical/editorial issues, and areas that WRAC liked



WRAC Comments

- General Changes Requested
- Specific Questions
 - “should” vs. “will” usage in the document
 - Chapter 6.1 – When and where is it necessary to conduct test pits, hydraulic conductivity tests, and percolation tests?
 - Chapters 6 and 11 – Is a backhoe considered low impact?
 - Chapter 6.4 - Will DEP personnel conduct the percolation tests or does the applicant need to hire a consulting soil scientist for these tests?



WRAC Comments (cont'd)

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Public Comments

- Public Comment Period: December 7, 2024 - February 5, 2025
- The Department received 6 comments from 3 commenters
- Overall, the comments were minor and did not require any additional modifications to the Manual
- A public comment and response document was developed to address the comments and is included with the finalized version of the Manual



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Get In Touch

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).