

**Advisory Opinion
From the
Technical Review Committee
For the
New England Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project**

Product/Technology Name:

Floating Outlet Distribution Chamber (FLOUT)

Applicants name & address:

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NEI Category:

2 - System Modification

Date of Opinion:

July 31, 1997

Project Background:

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) in cooperation with the New England Governors Conference (NEG), EPA Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT), EPA's National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) and the New England state environmental/health agencies responsible for the administration of on-site wastewater treatment systems are undertaking a 12 month pilot project for the regional voluntary evaluation of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater products/technologies. The goal of the project is to facilitate the technical evaluation of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater products/ technologies on a regional basis. This should result in expediting acceptance of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater treatment products/technologies by utilizing a Technical Review Committee (the Committee) to conduct an independent evaluation of product/technology performance. The Committee made up of New England State regulators and advisors will assess each product/technology on its merits, backed by quality data, and render an Advisory Opinion. The benefit of the Committee is to assist regulators in carrying out their responsibilities for evaluating these technologies in a more efficient manner.

The Committee has defined three categories of On-site I/A technologies:

1. **Material Replacement**
2. **System Modification**
3. **Advanced Wastewater Treatment**

Applicant's Description of Product/Technology:

The Floating Outlet Distribution Chamber (FLOUT) is a self-dosing distribution chamber made with flexible connectors and a buoyant float connected to outlet pipes. When the effluent reaches the maximum level in the chamber, it spills into a hole in the top of the float. This causes the float to sink. The effluent in the chamber discharges through the pipes(s) which exit the float, dosing the septic field while providing equal distribution through each outlet. The chamber continues to empty down to the top of the float. After the float empties it resumes floating to repeat another cycle.

Technology Claims:

The above-mentioned applicant submitted the following Claim of product performance with the formal submittal. The applicant was seeking the Committee's validation of this claim as part of the product/technology's consideration for regional evaluation in the Advisory Opinion:

Claim: The Floating Outlet Distribution Chamber (FLOUT) is a device which provides equal distribution of septic tank effluent throughout a disposal field and intermittent dosing of the field to promote better performance and longer life. The design is more easily incorporated into a subsurface structure than a siphon and is less prone to failure. The device may also eliminate the use of distribution boxes and associated problems.

Technical Review Committee's Response to Claims:

The Technical Review Committee's opinion is based on the Committee's evaluation of available information on the product/technology and relates to the specific products, materials, and specifications stated in the Technology Claim(s) of performance.

X The Committee agrees that the product/technology meets the above-stated performance Claim. The Committee reached this decision via a unanimous vote.

The applicant should request a determination from the committee for any modifications to the product/technology. The product/technology is also evaluated for the quality of the data, wastewater science, and the technology's apparent merit as an innovative/alternative on-site wastewater treatment technology.

General Observations/Concerns:

After thoroughly evaluating all of the available information, the Technical Review Committee has identified the following concerns that may affect the approval of said technology in a state:

- 1. Since the product/technology has moving parts, the long-term durability of the flexible connectors and float may be of concern.*
- 2. Although the product appears to function well, it does not have a great deal of historical data to document its claim.*
- 3. The performance of the FLOUT depends highly on the quality of installation. The applicant should insure that proper QA/QC is administered in the manufacturer of all components (i.e., precast tank).*

Recommendations:

Based on the Technical Review Committee's evaluation, the Committee recommends the following items to improve or insure product performance:

1. *The applicant should always include a float counter with each installation to assist the owner, pumper, and/or regulator on monitoring the devices performance and actual flow.*
2. *The product should be installed and operated in accordance with manufacturer's directions.*
3. *The FLOUT should be periodically checked to inspect all parts and document count.*
4. *Additional monitoring and/or performance data should be sent to the Committee as the applicant acquires it.*
5. *A septic tank effluent filter should be used in any system in which a septic tank is utilized.*

State Regulations:

A positive Advisory Opinion shall in no way be considered a substitute for compliance with individual state regulations. Every state's regulations are designed to reflect the concerns of that state. Information generated in this opinion is intended to alleviate the investigative work required by an individual state for the consideration of said technology for approval as an alternative/innovative technology. Before state approval of the technology, the technology must comply with all pertinent state regulations. The Technical Review Committee also recommends that each state have a control for insuring that the above-listed concerns are met, addressed, or closely monitored and tracked.