

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

Product/Technology Name:

GAG Sim/Tech Filter

Applicants Name & Address:

Gary Koteskey
GAG Sim/Tech Filter
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NEI Category:

2. System Modification

Date of Opinion:

June 6, 2000

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 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 (I/A) on-site wastewater products/technologies on a regional basis. This effort should help expedite the acceptance of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater treatment products/technologies. The work is carried out by a Technical Review Committee (the Committee) which conducts independent evaluations of product/technology performance. The Committee, made up of New England state regulators and advisors, assesses each product/technology on its merits, backed by quality data, and renders 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**

Description of Product/Technology:

The GAG Sim/Tech Filter is a pressurized filter designed to protect sanitary pressure systems by filtering out solids from the effluent before the effluent enters the forced main where solids can clog the small holes in the distribution system. The filter installs by screwing onto the discharge port of an effluent pump and connects to the inlet of the forced main. The filter is 3 inches in diameter and 18 inches long with 69.52 square inches or 41% of open area. This allows 83.8 gallons per minute to pass through the filter at 1 psi. The filter's screen consists of a type 347 stainless steel screen with 1/16 inch diameter holes and can be easily removed with the use of a custom wrench for servicing. An adjustable pressure switch is available to warn the owner/operator when the screen requires cleaning. Screen socks are also an option to provide a higher degree of filtration and ease of cleaning.

Technology Claim(s):

The above-mentioned applicant submitted the following Claims 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:

To keep holes open in pressure distribution systems, therefore allowing systems to function at a high degree of efficiency.

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 GAG Sim/Tech Filter meets the above-stated performance Claim(s). 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 the GAG Sim/Tech Filter in a state:

- 1. Maintenance is essential to the long-term performance of the product.*
- 2. An operation and maintenance (O & M) manual should be distributed with each system.*
- 3. Care should be taken to properly install the unit per manufacturer's specifications.*
- 4. In addition to low-pressure systems, the filter may also have beneficial use for any pumped system.*

Recommendations:

Based on the Technical Review Committee's evaluation of the GAG Sim/Tech Filter, the Committee recommends the following items to improve or insure product/technology performance:

- 1. The unit should be designed, installed, and operated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications*
- 2. A septic tank effluent filter may also be used in the system in conjunction with this product.*
- 3. Cleaning of filter and the disposal of filter socks should be done so in a safe and sanitary manner to protect public health and the environment.*

State Regulations:

A positive Advisory Opinion shall in no way be considered a substitute for compliance with individual state regulations. Every states' 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.

The NEIWPC Technical Review Committee has endorsed this Advisory Opinion for the *Tech Filter* herewith on this 6th day of June, 2000.

GAG Sim/