



## ***MISSISSIPPI***

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### Individual Onsite Wastewater Disposal

Regulation 2.0

January 11, 2006

[http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdh/site/\\_static/30,0,78,60.html](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdh/site/_static/30,0,78,60.html)

As of June 1, 2006 the State Regulations for Mississippi were last updated on January 11, 2006. The State is considering revising the regulations governing experimental and innovative protocols. There is no set date for this revision. Recent changes to the regulations dealt with spray irrigation, changes to setback distances and added soil wetness, and the NRCS handbook to the regulations.

Currently, the State does not follow performance based codes. New innovative technologies can be used under an experimental or research protocol. Under this protocol, the manufacturer submits information on the system to the Department of Health. The information is reviewed, and once approved, the manufacturer is allowed to install 100 systems. The manufacturer signs a contract that they will replace the systems with an approved technology. If the system functions properly, then the system may be approved. Currently, the Wastewater Advisory Committee is suggesting revisions to the regulations because of concerns related to limiting technologies in the State. For more information, contact Mr. Weston at the address listed above.

Mississippi code does not recognize management programs/contracts or management districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual liquid waste systems. Local agencies do not have authority to adopt or require maintenance/management programs.

The State has a licensing/certification program for installers and inspectors of onsite wastewater treatment/dispersal systems. In Mississippi, the county environmentalist and licensed professional engineers are licensed/certified to perform site evaluations/inspections at no additional cost if an inspection is requested by the homeowner. The current wastewater law does not require an approval or final inspection of new systems in the state. Only those installations for which the property owner makes a request are inspections and/or approval conducted. For site evaluations, a soil evaluation is required. A soil test hole is dug to a depth of 5 feet or until a restrictive horizon is reached. The wastewater effluent must be 24" above the high water table without restriction and at a minimum of 12" with restrictions.

The number of permits issued annually for new construction or system repair or replacement is tracked in the State of Mississippi. For more information, please contact Mr. Weston at the address listed above. Different permits for alternative, experimental, and innovative technologies are required in the State of Mississippi under the experimental protocol.

No funding program exists to assist homeowners replacing failing systems or installing new systems. There are no plans to develop such a mechanism.

There is a demonstration project (repair of failing onsite wastewater systems) in the state. For more information, including training program questions, contact Mr. Weston (above).