



PWEA Position Statement Alternate Technologies

Adopted by PWEA on April 13, 2023

PWEA Mission Statement

Advancing Pennsylvania's water quality professionals through education and training, promoting sound sustainable water policies, and fostering public stewardship of our water resources.

PWEA has long been concerned with the integrity of water and wastewater infrastructure. PWEA views onlot sewage facilities as an important component of the wastewater infrastructure in Pennsylvania. Onlot systems serve approximately 25% of the population of the Commonwealth and are an increasingly important tool supporting rural economic development.

Conventional onlot systems have been successfully used in PA for over 50 years to protect the waters of the Commonwealth, water supplies, and property values. With the passage of Act 34 of 2020, alternate onlot systems have been determined to satisfy the sewage facility planning requirements for onlot soil-based sewage facilities. By allowing alternate technologies to be used, and because of their successful use on soils that are less desirable from an agricultural utilization standpoint for more than 20 years, PA has taken a significant step toward preserving prime agricultural lands.

PWEA's goal is to ensure the protection of the waters of the Commonwealth, water supplies, and property values, by allowing the most economical options for onlot sewage facilities to be chosen by the property owner. PWEA believes that the regulatory quality standard for the treated effluent exiting the soil renovation zone (i.e. at the limiting zone) should be the same for conventional and alternate onlot sewage facilities.

Additionally, PWEA believes that adequate maintenance of all onlot sewage facilities is essential. Current regulations assign responsibility for proper operation and maintenance of [all] sewage facilities to the municipalities in which they are located. PWEA believes that all sewage facilities are subject to this regulatory requirement and encourages compliance with it.