



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILIES

## APPLICATION FOR THE SITE-SPECIFIC DESIGN APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM (ASTS)

[Regulation 26, Public Health (General Sanitation, Mosquito Prevention, Rat Exclusion and Prevention) Regulations]

**Note: This form is to be used for:**

- **ASTS (max 150 EP) for commercial premises; industrial premises; or residential developments involving more than one residential dwelling (even if the ASTS has NT Product Approval) in Building Control Areas.**
- **All ASTS outside Building Control Areas.**
- **Product Approved ASTS for single residential dwellings located in Building Control Areas – inside Water Protection Zones\*.**

**This form is NOT to be used for:**

- **Product Approved ASTS for single residential dwellings located in Building Control Areas – outside Water Protection Zones\*. These systems require a *Notification for the installation of a Product Approved ASTS for a single residential dwelling in a Building Control Area.***

- Site-Specific Design Approval is a “one off” approval granted to an applicant by the Department of Health and Families (or delegated authority) for the design of a specific Alternative Septic Tank System (includes Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems).
- Installation of an ASTS in a Building Control Area is addressed under “self-certification” procedures in the *Building Act*, providing that the system was installed and commissioned by a Self-Certifying Plumber.
- ASTS installed and commissioned in a Building Control Area by the Manufacturer / Manufacturer’s Agent / Hydraulic Engineer (i.e. not a ‘self-certifying plumber’) also require a Confirmation of Compliance to confirm that the system was installed in accordance with the conditions of the Site Specific Design Approval. Refer to Appendix 1 (Page 6) for a Confirmation of Compliance form.
- ASTS installed and commissioned outside a Building Control Area also require confirmation of compliance to confirm that the system was installed in accordance with the conditions of the Site-Specific Design Approval. Refer to Appendix 1 (Page 6) for a Confirmation of Compliance form.
- Water Protection Zones\* are declared by Power and Water Corporation.
- ASTS may include AWTS, Composting Toilets, and Biological Filter Systems.
- This application form must be completed and submitted by the applicant to the relevant Environmental Health Office prior to the commencement of works.

### 1. APPLICANT

<b>Property Owner</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Postal Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax.</b>
<b>Date of Application</b>	<b>Signature of Applicant</b>

## 2. SITE INFORMATION

<b>Address/locality of site</b> (include Lot No.)	
<b>Type of Landuse</b> (e.g. Road House, Supermarket, School, Ablution Block)	
<b>Size/shape/layout</b>	
Site plans attached (must show details of contours, allotment boundaries, site features, bore locations)	yes/no
Photograph attached	yes/no
<b>Intended potable water supply</b>	rainwater tanks  reticulated water supply bore/groundwater
<b>Expected wastewater quantity (litres/day)</b>	
<b>Will any trade waste be produced?</b>	yes/no
If yes then what type and estimate quantity (litres/day)	

## 3. SITE ASSESSMENT

<b>Climate</b> (areas with high evaporation compared with precipitation are preferred for land application systems, as they allow greater use of the hydraulic load)	
<b>Are low temperatures expected (particularly below 15°C?)</b> (average maximum daytime temperatures below 15°C decrease the performance of wastewater treatment processes that rely on biological activity – e.g. AWTS & Composting Toilets)	yes/no
<b>Flood potential</b> (it is best to locate all the components of on-site systems above the 1 in 100 year probability flood contour)	
Land application area above 1 in 100 year flood level	yes/no
Electrical components above 1 in 100 year flood level	yes/no
<b>Is the site exposed?</b> (sun and wind exposure on land application areas should be maximised to enhance evaporation. Evaporation may be reduced by up to two-thirds in some locations by a poor aspect or overshadowing and sheltering by topography, buildings or vegetation)	yes/no
<b>Slope of site</b> (excessive slope might pose problems for installing systems and create difficulties in evenly distributing the treated wastewater to land, resulting in run-off from surface land application areas.)	
<b>Is there erosion potential?</b> (on-site systems should not be put on land that shows evidence, or that has potential for mass for movement or slope failure.)	yes/no
<b>Is there run-on and upslope seepage?</b> (Run-on of precipitation on to the land application area from up-gradient areas should be avoided. Run-on should be diverted around any land application area by using earthworks.)	yes/no



<p><b>Is the site well drained?</b></p> <p>(on-site systems should not be installed on damp sites. Poor drainage and surface dampness are often indicated by the type of vegetation growing on the site. Site drainage can be best determined by inspecting the soil.)</p>	yes/no
<p><b>Is there fill on the site?</b></p> <p>(Fill can be best described as soil resulting from human activities that have led to modification, truncation or burial of the original soil or the creation of new soil parent material by a variety of mechanisms. Fill often has highly variable properties, such as permeability. Fill less than 0.3 metres deep could be suitable, depending on the nature of the material and the suitability of the underlying soil.)</p>	yes/no
<p><b>Horizontal distance to nearest bore used for domestic water supply (m)</b></p> <p>(must be a minimum of 100 metres from a domestic bore –conventional septic system; or 50 metres for an ASTS. A minimum of 400 metres must be maintained from production bores for all conventional septic systems)</p> <p>Relevant DPI groundwater vulnerability map referred to?</p>	yes/no/not available
<p><b>Buffer distances from effluent disposal area to:</b></p> <p>Permanent waters (m)</p> <p>Other waters (m)</p> <p>Other sensitive environments (m)</p> <p>Boundary of premises (m)</p> <p>Swimming pools (m)</p> <p>Buildings (m)</p>	
<p><b>Is there sufficient land area available for the effluent disposal area:</b></p> <p>(sufficient and appropriate land must be available within the boundary of the premises for sewage management system, including treatment system, dedicated land application areas, buffer distances, house and associated structures, social and recreational uses, and vehicular access areas.)</p>	yes/no
<p><b>Are there surface rocks?</b></p> <p>(the presence of rock outcrops usually indicates highly variable bedrock depths, and can be associated with preferential pathways for effluent to flow along rock fissures and surface elsewhere. The presence of rocks can limit evaporation and interfere with drainage. Rocks can also interfere with trench and pipe installations.)</p>	yes/no
<p><b>What is the approximate distance to nearest feasible sewerage connection point (m)?</b></p>	

#### 4. SITE ASSESSMENT

<p><b>Depth to bedrock or hardpan (m)</b></p> <p>(a soil depth of less than 0.6 m to bedrock might not have enough capacity to filter nutrients and pathogens. Shallow soil often has a highly variable depth, and incurs a risk of effluent surfacing near the land application area.)</p>
<p><b>Depth to high water table in the wet season (m)</b></p> <p>(attention should be given to groundwater protection, particularly if the groundwater is used or may be used for potable or irrigation water supplies. Minimum depths from the treated wastewater infiltrative surface to the minimum periodic water table are recommended to maintain aerobic conditions in the soil, prevent surface ponding and prevent contamination of groundwater.)</p>

<b>Long Term Acceptance Rate of soil (LTAR)</b>	Report attached yes/no
How was it determined? – include details of number of samples and depth that each sample was taken.	
By whom?	

## 5. SYSTEM DETAILS

<b>Manufacturer/Distributor</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax.</b>
<b>Type of System</b> Include complete specification, means of aeration (where relevant) & disinfection, tank construction & sizes, quality standards to be achieved	Details attached yes/no
<b>Details on the number &amp; type of fittings to be connected to the system</b>	Details attached yes/no
<b>Details on the expected number of users (EP) of the system and calculations on the design loadings of the system</b>	Details attached yes/no
<b>Total capacity of Primary Tanks (L)</b>	
<b>Total capacity of Secondary Tanks (L)</b>	
<b>Details of any pretreatment devices if trade waste is discharged to system</b>	Applicable yes/no Details attached yes/no
<b>Details and plans of the proposed effluent disposal system including type of disposal (surface or subsurface) and materials specification</b> <small>(surface irrigation of effluent is not permitted without prior approval from DHF)</small>	Details attached yes/no
<b>Size of disposal area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	
<b>Details of the operating instructions and maintenance/routine servicing</b>	Details attached yes/no
<b>Name of maintenance contractor and their level of training</b>	Details attached yes/no
<b>Copies of results of any effluent testing for that type of system in the NT or interstate</b>	Details attached yes/no

## 6. PROCESSING OF APPLICATION

- An application for site-specific design approval shall be processed by the relevant district Environmental Health Office within two weeks of its receipt. This is on the proviso that the applicant has provided all the information detailed in the application. If information provided is incomplete then the 2 week processing period recommences.
- All ASTS effluent disposal areas for systems requiring site-specific design approval must be subsurface/shallow subsurface and not comprise spray irrigation unless effluent is tertiary treated. Shallow subsurface irrigation must be disinfected in accordance with the Septic Tank Code of Practice.
- There is no fee for a site-specific design approval.

## 7. LODGEMENT OF APPLICATION WITH DHF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

<p><b>DARWIN</b> 2nd Floor, Casuarina Plaza Casuarina PO Box 40596 CASUARINA NT 0811 Phone: (08) 8922 7377 Fax: (08) 8922 7036</p>	<p><b>KATHERINE</b> Ground Floor, O'Keefe House Katherine Hospital PMB 73 KATHERINE NT 0851 Phone: (08) 8973 9061 (08) 8973 9062 Fax: (08) 8973 9063</p>	<p><b>EAST ARNHEM</b> Community Health Building Endeavour Square, Nhulunbuy PO Box 421 NHULUNBUY NT 0881 Phone: (08) 8987 0440 (08) 8987 0441 Fax: (08) 8987 0444</p>
<p><b>BARKLY</b> Health Development Building Cnr Schmidt &amp; Windley Sts, Tennant Creek PO Box 346 TENNANT CREEK NT 0861 Phone: (08) 8962 4302 Fax: (08) 8962 4420</p>	<p><b>ALICE SPRINGS</b> Mwerre House 60 Hartley St, Alice Springs PO Box 721 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871 Phone: (08) 8955 6122 Fax: (08) 8952 5927</p>	<p><b>TIWI ISLANDS</b> (Tiwi Health Services) Block 4, Royal Darwin Hospital Rocklands Drive, Tiwi PO Box 40596 CASUARINA NT 0811 Phone: (08) 8922 8198 Fax: (08) 8922 7979</p>



DEPARTMENT OF  
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## CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE OF AN ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM

[Regulation 26, Public Health (General Sanitation, Mosquito Prevention, Rat Exclusion and Prevention) Regulations]

**This form applies alternative septic tank systems (ASTS) that have been installed with prior Site-Specific Design Approval. It particularly applies to the large-scale ASTS that have been installed and commissioned by the Manufacturer/Manufacturer's Agent. It is to be completed and submitted to the local environmental health office at least 7 days AFTER the completion of the works.**

### 1. LOCATION OF ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Premises Description \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. 3BR house, 2BR flat/unit, 10 person office, 25 person factory, 65 seat restaurant & 5 staff, etc.)

Name of System Owner \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. SITE-SPECIFIC DESIGN APPROVAL DETAILS

Environmental Health Region \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date of Site-Specific Design Approval \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. INSTALLER (MANUFACTURER, MANUFACTURER'S AGENT, LICENSED PLUMBER, HYDRUALIC ENGINEER)

Name of installer \_\_\_\_\_  
(include Licence or Registration Number)

Address of installer \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that the above described works comply with the requirements of the Northern Territory *Code of Practice for Small On-site Sewage and Sullage Treatment Systems and the Disposal or Reuse of Sewage Effluent* and the relevant Site-Specific Design Approval.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### 5. LODGEMENT OF CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DHF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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