Joint Committee Issue Paper

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: NSF Standard 40, NSF Standard 245 (possibly)

Background:
Provide a brief background statement indicating the cause and nature of concern, the impacts identified relevant to public health, public understanding, etc, and any other reason why the issue should be considered by the Committee. Reference as appropriate any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue.

Historically Standard 40 systems have been tank based systems that provide an advanced level of treatment that can be measured at a single outlet from the system. They may contain media, pumps, blowers or a combination of the above that work through a central controller that is required to have audible and visual alarms that monitor critical system processes. These are primarily used in applications where soil or environmental conditions will not allow for typical drainfields. They are typically mated to a standard or 3rd party technology for dispersal to the environment. These items are easily identified for audits and follow up by service providers, regulatory agencies and NSF for field verification.

Recently, there have been several Standard 40 systems that are drainfield based, and not necessarily tank based, that achieve advanced levels of performance. They are typically passive, and therefore many sections of the Standard 40 (such as alarms, controls, data plates, etc.) may not directly apply. They require specialized materials to be included to be a complete system (i.e. media, certified sands, etc.) and have different methods needed to sample and measure field performance (turbid, foamy, etc.). They may or may not have an additional method of dispersal and verification of installed components is not similar to the technologies mentioned above.

Recommendation:
Clearly state what action is needed: e.g., recommended changes to the standard(s) including the current text of the relevant section(s) indicating deletions by use of strike-out and additions by highlighting or underlining; e.g., reference of the issue to a Task Group for detailed consideration; etc.

I recommend that a Task Group be formed to look at the differences between these two types of technologies as it applies to each section of the Standard. I believe the differences to be significant enough to make changes or additional sections of the Standard, or split into multiple sections, analogous to the Standard 46. This would help differentiate the types of systems, and expectations of equipment, follow up and field performance for regulatory agencies and the general public.

Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
If not provided electronically, the submitter will be responsible to have sufficient copies to distribute to committee members.

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