

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
ON-SITE WATER PROTECTION BRANCH**

INNOVATIVE WASTEWATER SYSTEM APPROVAL
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Innovative Wastewater System Approval Number: IWWS 1999-03-R1

Issued To: Norweco, Inc
 220 Republic St
 Norwalk, OH 44857
 www.norweco.com

Contact: Leslie Barber
 419-668-4471

For: Norweco Singulair Residential Wastewater Treatment System with a Sand Filter

Approval Date: November 1, 1999
 December 31, 2024 Updated for 18E and renewed for 2025

In accordance with G.S. 130A-343 and 15A NCAC 18E Section .1700, an application by Norweco, Inc., for a renewal of their innovative approval utilizing Norweco Singulair unit with a sand filter system in an on-site wastewater system has been reviewed and found to meet the requirements of an Innovative system when the following conditions are met.

I. General

A. Scope of this Innovative Approval

1. Design, installation, use, and operation and maintenance requirements for Norweco, Inc. systems meeting TS-I and TS-II effluent standards pursuant to 15A NCAC 18E .1201(a), Table XXV.
2. Operation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements for Norweco, Inc. systems and associated dispersal systems to ensure the treatment performance standards are met.

B. This Innovative Approval is applicable to wastewater systems treating domestic strength effluent, as defined in 15A NCAC 18E .0402(a), Table III, utilizing Norweco, Inc. systems that have a design daily flow less than or equal to 3,000 gallons per day (gpd).

Use of Norweco, Inc. systems for facilities with high strength effluent, as defined in 15A NCAC 18E .0402(a), Table III or industrial process wastewater, shall be proposed by Norweco, Inc. and a North Carolina Professional Engineer (PE) to the Department for review and approval on a case-by-case basis, prior to permitting by the local health department (LHD). The system design shall

include the proposed untreated wastewater strength in BOD₅, COD, TN, TSS, and fats, oils, and grease, the expected organic loading rate in pounds of BOD or N, the hydraulic loading rate on the pretreatment system, and the calculations, references, and any other needed information to support the proposed design.

- C. Any site utilizing these systems shall have wastewater with sufficient alkalinity to facilitate biological treatment processes. The influent shall not have a pH or toxins that significantly inhibit microbial growth.
- D. Use of Norweco, Inc. systems that have a design daily flow greater than 3,000 gpd may be permitted after approval by the Department on a case-by-case basis in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .0302(e) or in accordance with G.S. 130A-336.1.

II. System Description

The system consists of a settling tank, Norweco unit, and dispersal field.

III. Siting Criteria

The Norweco, Inc. systems and associated dispersal fields shall be sited and sized in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E, Section .1200 for TS-I and TS-II systems. Drip irrigation systems used with Norweco, Inc. systems shall be sited and sized in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .1204 and the manufacturer specific drip approval. The Norweco, Inc. systems and associated dispersal fields shall meet all applicable horizontal setback requirements in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E Section .0600 or .1202 and be located to prevent surface and subsurface water inflow and infiltration.

IV. Dispersal Field System Sizing

The dispersal field system sizing criteria shall be based upon the long-term acceptance rate specified in the appropriate portion of the rules or the Provisional, Innovative, or Accepted system approval for the type of dispersal system to be used.

V. Special Site Evaluation

A special site evaluation may be required based on the proposed dispersal system. Refer to 15A NCAC 18E .0510(c) for when a special site evaluation is required.

VI. Design Criteria

- A. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be designed by a designer authorized in writing by Norweco, Inc. (authorized designer), Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator (AOWE), or PE, if required.
- B. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be designed in accordance with the following criteria.

1. The Singulair unit shall be sized in accordance with the Residential Wastewater Treatment System approval, including the sizing of the settling tank.
2. The sand filter shall be sized in accordance with the sand filter innovative approval, IWWS 1997-01-R1 for a recirculating sand filter. The filter area shall be based on a maximum design loading rate of 10 gpd/square foot.
3. TS-II systems shall use a UV systems approved by the Department and Norweco, Inc. for disinfection.
4. Influent samples, if needed, shall be collected from beneath the access opening over the pretreatment chamber. The sample shall be taken from the clear zone beneath any scum layer using a sludge judge or similar device.
5. Effluent samples shall be taken from an approved sampling port. Gravity installations shall have a sampling port located immediately downstream of the tank outlet in a manufacturer provided Tipping Distribution Box. Pump installations shall have a sampling port located immediately following the dispersal field pump. The sampling port shall be prior to the spin filters for drip dispersal systems. The approved sampling port shall include a ½-inch tap with ball valve in the discharge line inside the pump tank riser. To obtain the sample, the ball valve shall be fully open with the pump running for at least 30 second before taking the sample.
6. For dispersal systems that require a pump, a control panel that meets the requirements of 15A NCAC 18E .1103 shall be used. Gravity effluent dispersal systems shall use either public water use records or a meter on the well to measure and record the daily flow in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .1702(a)(2)(I).
7. The dispersal field pump tank shall be a state-approved tank sized in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .0802.

VII. Installation and Testing

- A. A preconstruction conference shall be required to be attended by the following, as applicable: authorized designer, Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator (AOWE), PE, installer authorized in writing by Norweco, Inc. (authorized installer), Norweco, Inc. licensed distributor, and LHD prior to beginning installation of the Norweco, Inc. system.
- B. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be installed according to directions provided by Norweco, Inc.
- C. All individuals or companies installing Norweco, Inc. systems shall be in possession of all necessary permits and licenses before attempting any portion of a new or repair installation. The company or individual must be a Level IV installer and authorized in writing by Norweco, Inc.
- D. Watertightness of the septic and pump tanks shall be demonstrated by a leak test in accordance with one of the following:
 1. 24-hour water leak test conducted at the installation site. A water level change of one-half inch or more over twenty-four hours, or visual observation of leakage shall be cause for failure of the watertightness test; or
 2. one of the testing methods in 15A NCAC 18E .0805(b).

- E. The authorized installer, PE, AOWE, or authorized designer, and the operator authorized in writing by Norweco, Inc. (authorized operator), shall conduct a final inspection and start-up of the Norweco, Inc. system and all associated system components. The LHD will attend and observe the final inspection and start-up.
- F. Specified site preparation steps and construction specifications for the dispersal system shall be strictly adhered to, including specified depth of trenches in relation to site limiting conditions, cover material specifications if needed, trench installation method, etc.

VIII. Operation, Maintenance, Monitoring, and Reporting

- A. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be classified, at a minimum, as a Type Va system in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .1301(b), Table XXXII. Management and inspection shall be in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E, Section .1300.
- B. All Norweco, Inc. systems require an operation and maintenance agreement between the system owner and Norweco, Inc., its authorized representative, or with an authorized operator in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .1302(c). The authorized operator must have proper equipment and training to access and program the control panels on site. The authorized operator shall be:
 - 1. a North Carolina certified subsurface operator (Operator in Responsible Charge); and
 - 2. either an employee of Norweco, Inc. or authorized in writing by Norweco, Inc.
- C. All Norweco, Inc. systems shall be operated and maintained according to the latest version of Norweco, Inc. O&M manual.
- D. At each Norweco, Inc. system inspection, the authorized operator shall follow service procedure steps identified in the Norweco, Inc. O&M Manual and, at a minimum, observe, monitor, and record the following:
 - 1. Wastewater, sludge, and scum levels in all tanks;
 - 2. Proper operation of system aerator, noting any unusual sounds or physical appearance;
 - 3. Solids level in the first and second compartments;
 - 4. Clarity of system effluent;
 - 5. Watertightness of all tanks, risers, and pipe connections at the tanks;
 - 6. Operation of pumps, floats, valves, electrical controls, and alarms, including record of alarms since last visit and troubleshooting actions;
 - 7. Dispersal field pump delivery rate based on a drawdown test, determination of the average pump run time, and dispersal field dosing volume;
 - 8. Readings from pump cycle counters and elapsed time meters or water meters;
 - 9. Any structural damage, accessibility issues, adequate ventilation, excess odors, ponding of effluent, insect infestations, vegetative growth over the dispersal field, or surfacing of effluent on the dispersal field; and
 - 10. Effluent sample collected from the disinfection unit inside the third compartment or the sampling port. An influent sample shall only be collected if needed.
- E. Sampling

1. All sampling shall be done in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .1302 and .1709. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be sampled annually when the design daily flow is less than or equal to 1,500 gpd. Systems with design daily flows greater than 1,500 gpd and less than or equal to 3,000 gpd shall be sampled twice a year.
2. Effluent for all systems shall be tested for BOD₅, TSS, and NH₃. Systems designed to meet the TS-II standard shall also have the effluent analyzed for TN (TKN and NO₃-N). Sampling is not required for fecal coliforms when the site is found to be compliant with all other constituents in Table XXV of 15A NCAC 18E .1201(a).
3. Influent samples, if needed, shall be collected from beneath the access opening over the pretreatment chamber. The sample shall be taken from the clear zone beneath any scum layer using a sludge judge or similar device.
4. Effluent samples shall be taken from an approved sampling port. Gravity installations shall have a sampling port located immediately downstream of the tank outlet in a manufacturer provided Tipping Distribution Box. Pump installations shall have a sampling port located immediately following the dispersal field pump. The sampling port shall be prior to the spin filters for drip dispersal systems. The approved sampling port shall include a ½-inch tap with ball valve in the discharge line inside the pump tank riser. To obtain the sample, the ball valve shall be fully open with the pump running for at least 30 second before taking the sample.

F. Notification and Performance of Maintenance and Repairs

1. The authorized operator shall alert Norweco, Inc., the LHD, and the system owner within 48 hours of needed maintenance or repair activities including, but not limited to landscaping, tank sealing, tank pumping, pipe or control system repairs, media or aerator replacement, and adjustments to any other system component.
2. The authorized operator shall notify the system owner, Norweco, Inc., and the LHD whenever the pump delivery rate efficiency or average pump run times are not within 25 percent of the initial measurements conducted prior to system start-up.
3. System troubleshooting and needed maintenance shall be provided to maintain the pump delivery rate and average pump run time within 25 percent of initial measurements conducted during system start-up.
4. Tank compartments will be pumped as needed upon recommendation of the authorized operator and in accordance with the Norweco, Inc. system Operation and Maintenance instructions.
5. The tanks shall be pumped by a permitted septage management firm, and the septage handled in accordance with 15A NCAC 13B .0800.
6. All maintenance activities shall be logged and recorded in the authorized operator reports provided to the system owner, Norweco, Inc., and the LHD.

G. Reporting

The authorized operator shall provide a written report to the system owner, Norweco, Inc., and the LHD within 30 days of each inspection. At a minimum, this report shall specify:

1. The date and time of inspection;
2. System operating conditions measured and observed according to VIII.D and VIII.E;
3. Results from laboratory analyses of effluent samples, and influent samples as needed;
4. Maintenance activities performed since the last inspection report;

5. An assessment of overall system performance;
6. A list of any improvements or maintenance needed;
7. 7- and 30-day readings as required in 15A NCAC 18E .1702(a)(2)(l);
8. A determination of whether the system is malfunctioning, and the specific nature of the malfunction; and
9. Any changes made in system settings based on recommendations of the manufacturer.

IX. Responsibilities and Permitting Procedures

- A. Prior to the installation of a Norweco, Inc. system at a site, the owner shall submit an application or Notice of Intent (NOI) to the LHD for the proposed use of this system. Improvement Permits (IP) or Construction Authorizations (CA) issued by the LHD shall have a soil and site evaluation conducted either by the LHD, LSS, or Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator (AOWE). The NOI shall include a soil and site evaluation conducted by an LSS.
- B. The IP, CA, and NOI shall contain all the conditions the site approval is based upon, including the proposed use of the Innovative system. The OP will include all conditions specified in the IP and CA. The Authorization to Operate (ATO) should include all the conditions specified in the NOI.
- C. When a special site evaluation is required pursuant to 15A NCA 18E .0510, an evaluation and written, sealed report from a Licensed Soil Scientist (LSS) regarding the site shall be provided to the LHD. The report shall contain the information specified in 15A NCAC 18E .0510(d). The LHD may request the assistance of their Regional Soil Scientist in evaluating this report prior to permit issuance.
- D. Norweco, Inc. systems shall be designed by either an authorized designer, AOWE, or a PE. Systems over 1,000 gpd, or as required in accordance with 15A NCAC 18E .0303(a) shall be designed by a PE.
- E. Prior to the LHD issuing a CA for a Norweco, Inc. system, a design submittal prepared by an authorized designer, AOWE, or PE shall be submitted. The design submittal shall include the information required in 15A NCAC 18E .0305.
- F. It is recommended that local authorized environmental health specialists attend a design training session offered by the manufacturer or the authorized representative prior to permitting the system. Also, at the request of the LHD, a Regional Engineer will review designs.
- G. For sites required to be evaluated by an LSS or Licensed Geologist (LG), see Section V and IX.C, the LHD, AOWE, or PE may specify as a condition of the IP and CA that an LSS or LG oversee critical phases of the dispersal field installation and certify in writing that the installation was in accordance with their specified site and installation requirements prior to the OP or ATO issuance.
- H. The authorized operator shall be present during the final inspection of the system prior to the issuance of the OP or ATO.

- I. The LHD shall issue the OP after the following:
 1. Field verification of installation completion;
 2. Receipt of written documentation from the authorized designer, AOWE, or PE that the system has been designed, installed, and is operating in accordance with the approved plans; and
 3. All necessary legal documents have been completed, including the contract between the system owner and the authorized operator.

The LHD shall issue the OP for an (a2) and (a5) application after all necessary legal documents have been completed, including the contract between the system owner and the authorized operator.

The ATO shall be submitted to the LHD in accordance with G.S. 130A-336.1 and G.S. 130A-336.2.

X. Repair of Systems

The provisions of 15A NCAC 18E .1302 shall govern the use of the Norweco, Inc. system for repairs to existing malfunctioning wastewater systems.

Approved By: _____ Date: _____