Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health Services
Onsite Wastewater Program

Information Packet for Applicants

(For Mechanical Treatment Systems)

FOREWORD

In order to expedite the issuance of a permit to have an individual wastewater treatment plant installed, it is necessary for you to read and understand the information contained within this application packet and to submit all of the requested information complete with signatures where indicated.

The information contained in this packet is a step by step guide to assist you through the process of acquiring a permit to have an individual sewage system installed all the way through to the finalization of your permit by representatives of the Office of Public Health. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this packet please contact your local Environmental/Sanitarian Services Office at: https://ldh.la.gov/page/3745.

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I. *Terms and Definitions*

AEROBIC TREATMENT UNIT – a sewage treatment system that utilizes bacteria which require oxygen to break down the waste materials; bacterial treatment is obtained using a mechanical means to introduce the needed oxygen into the system.

CERTIFICATION BY INSTALLER – the paperwork that a licensed installer of individual sewage treatment systems must fill out and submit to the Office of Public Health; the paperwork certifies that the installer has properly installed the specified system and all components and acknowledges the installer's responsibility for performing the initial 2 year service/warranty inspections.

EFFLUENT - the typically treated liquid that drains from an onsite wastewater treatment system into a designated drainage right of way, parish maintained servitude for discharge or natural drainage, or water body.

EFFLUENT REDUCTION – a method used to reduce the amount of effluent, from an onsite wastewater treatment system, draining into a ditch, servitude, natural drainage, or body of water.

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION – a process of reducing effluent, aided with adequate vegetation coverage on the property, allowing plants to absorb and process the effluent through transpiration, while some of the effluent evaporates just as water does.

PERCOLATION TEST – a test conducted to determine the absorptive capability of the pores in soil and permeable rock to determine if a soil can support secondary treatment of the partially treated effluent from a septic tank. This test is conducted if a septic tank with field lines is chosen as the method for sewage treatment.

PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE – the term as related to an individual onsite wastewater treatment system means that the system requires routine maintenance forever, or until such time that it must be replaced with a new system.

POTABLE WATER – water that is suitable for drinking.

STATE IDENTIFICATION TAG – a 6 by 6 inch plastic tag with the Louisiana State Seal and a specific number which allows for identification of all sewage treatment systems installed. This tag is supplied by the manufacturer or their representative for every system manufactured and sold for installation in the State of Louisiana. After installation of your treatment system, the bottom portion of the tag is placed somewhere on the system so the installer can initial it each time they do a service/warranty inspection. The top portion of the tag must be turned in to the Office of Public Health along with the Certification by Installer form after complete installation of the system.

II. *Types of Individual Sewage Treatment Systems*

Please note that there are several different types and brands of individual sewage treatment systems that are approved for installation and use in Louisiana. Once you have made a decision as to what type/brand of system will work best for you and your needs, it is important to learn your responsibilities for that system. Please take the time to read over the available literature supplied in this packet and learn the importance of maintaining your treatment system as it relates to a healthier environment in addition to the health of you, your family and neighbors; additionally, proper and timely maintenance will add to the overall life of your treatment system and prevent costly repairs.

If your property is large enough with an appropriate ground water depth and the soil will pass a percolation test, then you must utilize a septic tank with field lines (**Note**: there can be no effluent discharge with this type of system). Please be advised that certain areas in the State of Louisiana will not pass a percolation test and your local Sanitarian may be able to assess whether your particular piece of property may or may not pass the test based on prior geological surveys and soil maps of the area. The other instances where a septic tank can be used are in conjunction with an oxidation pond or with a sand filter bed when field lines cannot be utilized (**Note**: the size of sand that is acceptable for a sand filter bed is no longer easily available in Louisiana). The latter two secondary treatment methods require there be a discharge of treated effluent to an appropriate receiving area. **Please understand that a septic tank alone is not an acceptable treatment system; it must be followed by secondary treatment to ensure that wastewater is sufficiently treated to render it acceptable for release to the environment.**

An alternative that can be utilized if a septic tank, with one of the secondary treatments described above, is not feasible, is an aerobic treatment unit (commonly referred to as an ATU or mechanical treatment plant). This type of system requires a proper electrical connection to service the air pump that is necessary for the system to function properly. The alarm system for the ATU also requires electricity **(Please do not have your ATU installed until you have the electrical components in place)**. Your permit cannot be finalized if the air pump and alarm systems for your ATU are not working.

A type of effluent reduction is also required with an ATU (**Note**: there are several types of effluent reduction that may be utilized dependent on the landscape of your property). A list of the different types of effluent reduction is included in this packet with a brief description of each type (**see FORM A**). You will need to choose which would be best for your property and sign and return the form with the other required forms included in this packet.

It is very important that you familiarize yourself with whatever type of ATU you choose to have installed. Routine maintenance is a must with any type of treatment system; however, an ATU must be serviced more often than other conventional type systems. **If you must use an ATU, it is highly recommended that you read the homeowner manual your licensed installer will supply at the time of installation. If, for whatever reason, your installer fails to give you the homeowner manual, please contact the manufacturer of your particular system to obtain one.**

It is equally important to be familiar with your local parish rules and regulations regarding individual sewage treatment systems. Some parishes do not allow any off lot discharges which may restrict you, based on lot size, soil characteristics, and ground water depth, to the use of a particular type of system.

III. *Hiring a Licensed Installer and Choosing a System*

If you do not know any licensed installers, the health unit has a list that you are welcome to look over. However, we cannot recommend any particular installer just as we cannot recommend a particular brand of treatment system. **Remember, whoever you choose to install your system must be a licensed installer.** All licensed installers are issued a license by the State of Louisiana's Onsite Wastewater Program. **(Note: A licensed plumber is not the same as a licensed onsite wastewater system installer).** If the installer does not have their license with them, please feel free to call your local health unit or Sanitarian who can verify this information. For a list of licensed installers you can visit our website at: https://ldh.la.gov/page/4686/. Another, excellent, way to find a good installer is to ask family members, neighbors, and friends, who have an individual onsite wastewater treatment system, for a referral.

We do encourage you to research the different types and brands of treatment systems and make sure that whatever system (septic tank or mechanical treatment unit) you choose has been approved for use and installation by the Louisiana Department of Health Sanitarian Services Engineer. You want to ensure that the licensed installer you hire is endorsed by the manufacturer for the particular brand of system you choose if it is a mechanical treatment system. This information is also available from your local health unit or Sanitarian. Please remember, like most things, the cheapest system may not necessarily be the best choice, so it is a good thing to learn as much as possible about the different types of systems available in Louisiana.

Included in the cost of your mechanical treatment plant is a two-year service contract. This contract is a requirement for all manufacturers of individual mechanical and/or aerobic treatment systems and is a stipulation for ANSI (American National Standards Institute) approval of the system. All mechanical/aerobic individual onsite wastewater treatment systems must meet ANSI/NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) 40 guidelines prior to approval for distribution and use by the State of Louisiana. Let your installer know you want a copy of the maintenance report (each visit) for the four maintenance visits he/she is required to perform. These visits should be at six month intervals.

After two years, you, as property owner, must contract with a maintenance provider to maintain a service contract. Your system needs to be checked at least every six months by someone qualified to service it. If you are satisfied with the service of your installer, you may want to contract with him, or you may contract with someone else as long as that individual is a licensed maintenance provider and is endorsed to do maintenance on your particular brand of system. You must supply a copy of your contract to your local health unit after each renewal. **Failure to maintain your system can result in fines being assessed up to $100.00/day per violation to a maximum of $10,000.00/year.**

IV. *Steps in the Application Process*

A. Documents Needed

The first thing that must be determined before applying for a permit is whether a community sewer system is available to service your home, business, or other applicable structure. If a community system is available, you must use it for your sewage disposal needs. If there is no community sewage, then the property/homeowner should follow these instructions below:

The property/homeowner must be the individual who applies for the permit. If the property/homeowner is not able, due to an illness, etc. then a designated agent form must be filled out and notarized to give a designated individual permission to act on their behalf (you can get the designated agent form from your local Sanitarian at the parish health unit or from the program website at: https://ldh.la.gov/page/wastewater). It is recommended that you obtain an official legible copy of your property plat. The plat must have the State Surveyors Seal or it must be designated as a "true copy" by the Clerk of Court's office. The plat may be required if the property had not been previously approved for individual sewage. You will also need proof of ownership of the property, i.e. Deed, Bill of Sale, Act of Donation, etc. that has the legal description of the property within the document. You also need to have a 911 address assigned to your property. Bring these items to apply for your temporary permit. Please note that your property must meet minimum lot size and frontage requirements in order to install an individual sewage treatment system **(see FORM-B)**. Remember to also check local parish ordinances since they may have further restrictions.

B. Detailed Plans Required

You must submit a detailed plan/drawing of all structures (houses, buildings, driveways, pool, barns, etc.) and their proposed use and location on the property. **(Please see attached examples of what your plans should look like).** Identify on the plan where all potable water lines are or will be located. If there is a private water well, it must be clearly shown on the plans along with the piping to any structures on the property **(Please note that you want to keep your sewage treatment system and all its component parts as far away from your potable water sources as possible; however, there are minimum distance requirements that must be followed)**. You can speak with your local Sanitarian as to specific minimum distance requirements, or they can be obtained from our website above. For private water wells, your system and its components must be a minimum of 50 feet away.

If known, you should show where the sewage treatment system will be installed in relation to all potable water sources. A description of distances of the sewage treatment system from all potable water sources, property boundaries, and structures should be included. A complete description of the effluent outfall pattern (where the system discharges) should be included and shown on the plan **(Please note that your system cannot discharge across privately owned property without benefit of a legal right of way before reaching a publicly maintained or natural waterway)**. If the effluent from your system must be discharged directly to a body of water, it is highly recommended that it be disinfected prior to discharge. **Please note that a specific type of chlorine must be used to disinfect the effluent from your system** if you choose chlorination as a method of disinfection **(see FORM-C)**.

It is recommended that you speak with a licensed installer who may be able to assist you with your plans. The licensed installer should be able to tell whether you will need additional and/or specific components for your treatment system based upon the landscape of your property. Your plans can be hand drawn as long as they are legible and include all necessary information. ***Please note on your plans anything such as trees, professional landscaping, etc. that may limit the installation of any part of your system.***
Please include directions to your property (See SF-10A) and make sure an address is posted in a visible area for the Sanitarian who will conduct a site survey of your property.

C. Important Information to Know

Read each of the following forms **(FORMS SF-10A & SF-11),** carefully before you sign and date them. If you do not understand any part of a form, do not hesitate to contact your local Sanitarian for clarification. **A permit cannot be issued until all the forms are signed and returned to the local health unit office.**

Please read through the educational information included within this packet as well. This is also a requirement for issuance of your permit. Most people give little thought to the process of sewage disposal, however, with the ever-increasing population growth and development, especially in unincorporated areas that have no community-type sewage services, the need and use of individual treatment systems is also ever-increasing. Unfortunately, many people do not take the time to educate themselves on the impact of improperly treated sewage and how it affects public health directly or indirectly through effects on the surrounding environment. Once you have obtained the necessary documents, sketched out your site plan, and have read and signed the included documentation, head to the health unit office to begin the process of obtaining your permit.

D. Health Unit and Permit Application

A Sanitarian or other Office of Public Health representative will make copies of your documentation **(property plat, proof of ownership, plans)** and return your originals. They will input your information into a database and print a temporary permit with all pertinent information. You will not receive the temporary at this time. A Sanitarian must do a site visit first **(see step five)**. You will be instructed as to when your temporary permit can be picked up. The property owner is the only individual to whom the temporary permit will be released. If you cannot pick up your temporary permit you may designate someone else to do so; however, you must notify the Sanitarian Services Office and give your permission to release the temporary permit to the individual you choose.

E. Sanitarian Site Survey

Before you can obtain your temporary permit, a Sanitarian must visit your property to determine if the plans you submit are feasible for your property and verify your point of discharge. While it is not a requirement for you to be there, it is highly recommended. We encourage you to be involved in the entire process from start to finish. Taking the initiative to learn all about your individual sewage system can save you time and money in the future.

If your property is gated and locked, you must make arrangements to have it accessible to the Sanitarian.

If you have animals, please ensure they are confined. Most Sanitarians will not conduct the site survey if there are loose animals (dogs, horses, cattle, etc.) on the property.

The boundaries of your property should be clearly marked so the Sanitarian can determine where your property ends on all sides.

After the Sanitarian determines your plans and specifications fit the landscape of your property, and the discharge point is acceptable, he or she will sign the temporary permit for release and it will be issued to you.

If the Sanitarian determines that something needs to be changed, you will be notified. The change needed must be reflected on the plans and on the temporary permit before it can be released. This is another reason we encourage you to be present at the site survey.

Note: If you plan to be present at the time of the site survey, arrangements can be made to bring your copy of the temporary permit. This can save you an extra trip to the health unit; however, you must let the person, inputting your information in the database, know that you intend to be present at the site survey and would like your copy at the time of the site visit. Again, please understand that the Sanitarian will only release the temporary permit if he/she finds everything is satisfactory.

REMINDER: PLEASE POST AN ADDRESS IF NOT ALREADY POSTED

F. Installation of your System

If you obtained your temporary permit prior to construction of your home, please note that your temporary permit is good for one year. **You should not install your mechanical treatment system until the house is ready or near ready to occupy.** You would be using up your warranty and service contract unnecessarily if you install the system prior to needing and/or using it. Remember, also, if you are installing a mechanical treatment plant you must have the proper electrical connection in place or the Office of Public Health cannot issue a final permit. If construction exceeds one year, contact the local health unit or Sanitarian for an extension on your temporary permit.

Your installer needs to see your permit and plans before he installs your system. We recommend you give him a copy and keep your original copy. In no case should the installer begin the installation without first having looked at the temporary permit with its specifications, and the plans. The installation of your system needs to be conducted as specified in the details of the plans you submitted to the Sanitarian/Environmental Services Office for approval. Any deviation from the original plan must be approved by the Office of Public Health. **If an unforeseen problem occurs, and the installation cannot be done according to the original plans, contact your local Sanitarian before you proceed.** If you do not contact your Sanitarian, the Office of Public Health is not obligated to issue a final approval on your system, and your permit can and may be revoked.

We highly recommend you be present at the time of installation so you can ask the installer any questions you may have. Additionally, please remember to take the time to read over your homeowner's manual if you are having an aerobic treatment unit installed.

The Office of Public Health cannot approve your site for utilities until the **Certification by Installer and the State Identification tag** is turned in to the local health unit office. The installer has fifteen days after the complete installation of your system to turn in these items. **The Certification by Installer should not be turned in if the electrical connection is not present.** If you need your utilities sooner, then make sure your installer understands your needs, and remember, **you, as the owner**, are the person responsible for having the appropriate electrical connections in place (**extension cords are not acceptable**).

Once the certification form and state tag is received, your permit will be finalized by certification, and utilities will be released. A copy will be mailed to you, or you can make arrangements with the local office to pick it up if needed sooner. A final inspection of your system may be conducted by the Regional Sanitarian Sewage Coordinator at a later date.

V. *Appendix – Forms & Plans Examples*

You will need to carefully read over the forms requiring your signature (A, E, and F), and bring them back to the health unit to apply for your temporary permit. **Please note** that Form SF-11 must be properly signed and dated. This is to ensure you understand your obligations with respect to the perpetual maintenance of your treatment system; this cannot be stressed enough, it is extremely important. You need to understand there will be maintenance costs involved for the upkeep of your system after the initial 2 year warranty. Directions on page 3 of the SF-10A should also be filled out and submitted along with the other forms, so that the Sanitarian doing your site visit will be able to find your property. Forms B and C are for informational purposes only.

The plans examples included in this packet indicate the items that should be shown when you do the drawing of your plans. It is not necessary that you have your plans drawn by a professional; however, if you do them yourself, they must be clearly labeled with all necessary information shown, and they must be legible.

FORM-A
Rev. 8/10

EFFLUENT REDUCTION SELECTION FORM

EFFLUENT REDUCTION FIELD

Uses absorption to reduce effluent volume. The field is not visible above ground. The effluent reduction field cannot be driven over, paved or built on.

ROCK PLANT FILTER

Uses evapotranspiration to reduce effluent volume. Finished size is 150 to 450 square feet. Large gravel 2 to 3 inches must be utilized.

SPRAY IRRIGATION

Uses electricity to operate pump that sprays effluent. A minimum space of 40 feet by 160 feet is required to spray effluent, eliminating all runoff from site.

OVERLAND FLOW

Direct discharge onto property of 3 acres or more. Discharge must flow over 200 feet of the property and be maintained on the property.

MOUND SYSTEM

A mound system is a soil absorption system that is elevated above the natural soil surface with a suitable fill material. If constructed properly, has no discharge. Approximate size is 40 feet by 100 feet above ground. An engineer is required to design this type of effluent reduction.

SUBSURFACE DRIP DISPOSAL

The subsurface drip disposal system uses small diameter pipe with underground emitters to equally distribute effluent at a relatively low rate over the entire absorption area. An engineer is required to design this type of effluent reduction.

I have considered all available options and have chosen the _____ effluent reduction system. I agree and understand that any changes in the type of effluent reduction installed must be documented on the application for Permit for On-Site Wastewater Disposal System by a representative of the local Parish Health Unit Environmental/Sanitarian Services Office prior to installation.

_____		_____	
Owner's Signature	Date	Witnessed by	Date

LOT SIZE REQUIREMENTS

*** *PLEASE NOTE:* Parish Ordinances may differ from State Minimum Requirements, so you must check with the local governmental body to ensure you follow all applicable Parish Ordinances which can be stricter than those stated below.**

1. Large lots, where an area of one acre or more is involved; or

2. A lot, plot or site which has a minimum area of 22,500 square feet and a frontage of at least 125 feet; or,

3. Lots legally subdivided on or before July 28, 1967; or

4. Single lots or sites remaining in substantially developed subdivisions, as long as a hazard to public health will not result; or

The basic minimum statewide lot size standard is 22,500 square feet with a minimum frontage of 125 feet.

For parishes in which the parish governing authority has enacted and enforces a formal sewerage permitting system (requiring installation of approved individual sewage disposal systems by the state health officer prior to issuance of any parish Permits)

The installation of a septic tank system is allowable if the lot size is 22,500 square feet with a minimum frontage of 80 feet.

The installation of an aerobic treatment unit is required when the lots or sites in question meet a minimum area of 12,000 square feet and minimum frontage of 60 feet.

Individual sewerage systems with the capacity up to and including 1500 gpd, that produce a treated, offsite effluent, shall include an effluent reducer as part of the overall system.

If all applicable criteria are met and the lot is a minimum of 22,500 square feet, then a soil percolation test must be scheduled.

Wastewater Treatment System Chemicals

Warning: Not All Chlorine Tablets are Created Equal

Wastewater from your onsite treatment system should be disinfected before it is sprayed onto lawns, and should be disinfected prior to discharging directly into any water body. Disinfection prevents odors and removes disease-causing micro-organisms. The most common form of disinfection for onsite wastewater treatment systems is tablet chlorination.

Currently, there are two main types of chlorine tablets found on the market – **calcium hypochlorite** and **chlorinated isocyanurates.**

For correct treatment of effluent from your onsite wastewater treatment system, only use chlorine tablets that are made from calcium hypochlorite.

Calcium hypochlorite tablets are the only readily available EPA-approved product for wastewater disinfection. They are very reactive and quickly kill 99% of bacteria present in wastewater within ten minutes! Just as important, the residual chlorine dissipates rapidly so it will not damage the receiving environment.

Do not use swimming pool chlorine tablets made from trichlorisocyanuric acid in your wastewater treatment system.

Chlorinated isocyanurates, commonly referred to as swimming pool tablets, are formulated for swimming pool disinfection only. It is both illegal and dangerous to use this type of chlorine tablet in wastewater treatment systems. Tri-Chlor tablets dissolve more slowly than calcium hypochlorite, do not thoroughly disinfect the effluent, and the residual chlorine remains for long periods of time to damage the receiving environment. These tablets work well in swimming pools where clean water is continually re-circulated and slow dissipation of residual chlorine is desired.

Additionally, **a danger of explosion** may arise due to the accumulation of moisture within the tablet. Trichloroisocyanuric tablets are designed to be totally immersed in water. However, when used in wastewater treatment systems they are exposed to periodic flows which cause them to decompose and release an explosive gas called nitrogen chloride.

Combining trichloroisocyanuric acid tablets with calcium hypochlorite tablets will also form the explosive compound, nitrogen chloride. These explosions can cause extensive property damage and serious injury.

Chlorine tablets are caustic and must be handled with care. Wear gloves to prevent direct contact with your skin. Use additional caution if the tablets are moist, since they are most caustic when wet.

Also, make sure to open the tablet container in a well-ventilated area because chlorine gas builds up in the container. Chlorine gas can escape from the tablets and the container, reducing their effectiveness and possiby corroding metal items stored near the container.

Remember, every manufactured chemical is formulated for a specific use. If you use the wrong chemical for the wrong use, you are risking environmental damage, legal problems, and serious personal injury.

State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

FORM-D
SF-10A
(Rev. 07/25)

APPLICANT NOTIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

APPLICANT NAME:

_____

MAILING ADDRESS:

_____

SITE ADDRESS:

_____

The purpose of this notification is to inform you of important requirements for which you, as the property owner, are responsible for, and by signature acknowledge you have read and understand your responsibilities insofar as they relate to the installation and maintenance of an individual sewage treatment system.

1. **Individual sewage treatment systems shall be *installed only by individuals who are licensed* through the State of Louisiana's Office of Public Health.** An installer's license is not the same as a plumber or contractor's license. If you are unsure whether the person you hire to install your system is a licensed installer, you can contact your parish health unit Sanitarian who can confirm whether the individual is licensed or not. **Exceptions** to having a licensed installer are considered in the following instances. The property owner (permit holder) may install a septic tank (non-mechanical) system for their own personal use and only if the property owner does the actual installation. Hiring an unlicensed person to perform any part of the installation of your septic tank will not be allowed under this exception and the system in question will not be approved by this office. The property owner may install a mechanical treatment system only after they have met the Office of Public Health's educational and licensure requirements.

2. All individual wastewater treatment plants for residential (non-commercial) use are required to have a treatment plant identification tag. This is a 6" by 6" adhesive-backed plastic tag that has the Louisiana state emblem in the upper right corner with an identification number at the top and bottom. The manufacturer or installer of your system will provide this tag upon installation of the system.

3. **REPLACEMENT OR RENOVATION OF EXISTING SYSTEMS-** Abandoned (no longer in use) individual sewage treatment systems on the property must be pumped out and filled in with soil to grade level, or removed from the property, before a replacement system can be approved. **All** wastewater lines must be connected into the treatment system.

4. The installation of an individual sewage system cannot be permitted unless site conditions are such that installation and use of the system are not likely to create a nuisance or public health hazard. Consequently, installation of your system, particularly the site of discharge and/or provision of an effluent system, must comply with the plans and specifications detailed on the temporary permit (LHS-47) and in your plan submittal. Failure to install the system in accord with these plans and specifications unless otherwise authorized by the Office of Public Health will void the permit, and this Office will not be obliged to approve the system.

5. An individual sewage system will not function properly if a garbage grinder (food waste disposal) is used. Additionally, the excessive use of bleach or concentrated laundry detergents or the disposal of cooking grease or toxic chemicals into your treatment system will damage it.

6. **Please be advised that it is the responsibility of the owner of the sewage treatment to obtain all necessary permits and rights-of-way for their treatment system's effluent to reach public water ways. For any discharges to state highway ditches, state law, according to R.S. 48:385, requires written consent by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the Chief Engineer, or his designee, of the Department of Transportation and Development. The submission of your plans does not necessarily imply that such consent will be granted.**

MAINTENANCE OF YOUR SYSTEM

1. **Check system** daily to make sure aerator **(air pump motor) is operating** (if it is not operating, partially or untreated effluent from your system will be discharging into the environment and can become a serious public health issue). Please check your aerator to ensure it is running.
2. **Do not alter the aerator timer setting.** Any necessary adjustments must be made by a **licensed** maintenance provider.
3. This type system **must be inspected and serviced on a routine basis** after the initial two-year service warranty which is included in the sale price of your system **(the installer must provide 4 service inspections at 6 month intervals).**
4. After your two year service contract, it is the **owner's responsibility to maintain a service contract** on their system and supply this Office with a copy of the service contract. ***Proper maintenance of your mechanical treatment system will prevent costly repairs and increase the overall life of your system.***
5. **Do not** install driveways, concrete slabs, etc. over any part of the system. Do not operate heavy equipment over the system or over the effluent reduction field. **Damage to the effluent reduction field** can cause your system to back up into your home.
6. Use your homeowner manual for manufacturer recommended cleaning and laundry products to prevent damage to your system.
7. **Washing of laundry should be spread out during the week** (a load or two daily) to avoid hydraulic overload to the system (hydraulic overloading can cause solids to be forced out of the system before they are adequately treated).
8. **Be alert to any strong sewage odors** at the point where the system discharges as this can indicate a problem with your system.

CONSUMER ALERT

If a consumer currently owns, or is contemplating purchasing and having installed, or is an installer of Individual Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plants, that consumer should pay particular attention to this notice.

It has become apparent that the electrical components of Individual Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plants which require connection to a source of electricity may not be properly connected to that electrical source in some cases. Specifically, mechanical sewage treatment plants using electrical power may require a properly installed Ground Fault Current Interrupter (GFCI).

The Office of Public Health has specific statutory authority and mandates to protect the public health from improper treatment and disposal of sewage.

This Office will offer the public consultation with regard to the appropriate sewage treatment system that should be used with a specific application, considering system design for properly treated sewage, sizing for the number of people using the system, location of the system, and other health considerations, as necessary.

However, the Office of Public Health does NOT have the authority to inspect or approve the electrical connections and will not assume responsibility for such electrical safety considerations.

Accordingly, this is an advisory that proper electrical connections must be made to the air pump/blower and/or any other electrical components that are integral parts of an Individual Mechanical Sewage treatment Plant, and that a qualified electrician should perform or examine the installation(s) for appropriate wiring and installation, as well as connection to the GFCI.

Additionally, it is to your advantage to read over the State rules and regulations governing the type of individual onsite wastewater treatment system that will be installed on your property. *If you are familiar with* this information, it can help ensure that the licensed installer you hire is correctly following State guidelines. While the Office of Public Health issues the installer a license based on their meeting specific requirements, it does not have any control over the installer's business practices.

I hereby certify that I have read and understand this notification, including the consumer alert, and acknowledge responsibility for ensuring all requirements are fulfilled. By my signature on the application, I understand that, pending plans approval, I will receive a permit to install and operate a mechanical sewage treatment plant. ***I also certify that I have acquired a copy of the rules and regulations regarding the installation of the particular type of individual onsite wastewater treatment system to be installed and utilized on my property.***

A copy of this notification will be given to the applicant and the original retained by the Office of Public Health.

DIRECTIONS TO PROPERTY

WHERE IS THE 911 ADDRESS POSTED? _____

Please provide directions to the property starting from the Parish Health Unit:
(Please include any distinguishing landmarks)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
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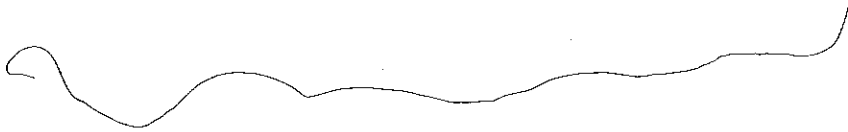
_____
_____



FORM-F
SF-11
Rev. 5/11

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF _____

I understand that I have received a permit to install and operate a mechanical onsite wastewater treatment plant, and I hereby certify that I acknowledge my responsibility for providing perpetual maintenance of this system, for the life of the system, in accordance with the requirements set forth in Part 13, Chapter 7, §725. M. 2. of the *Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 51, Public Health Sanitary Code,* and upon expiration of the initial two year service warranty. I understand that failure to provide perpetual maintenance of the sewage system may result in the imposition of fines and/or penalties by this Department as allowed by Law. I further understand and acknowledge that it is my sole responsibility to determine/ensure ownership (or similar interest) in the described property for which this permit is being issued. I fully understand that this permit does not authorize me to install a sewage system or take any other action regarding property for which I do not have ownership or similar rights.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, _____, in the presence of the undersigned competent witness.

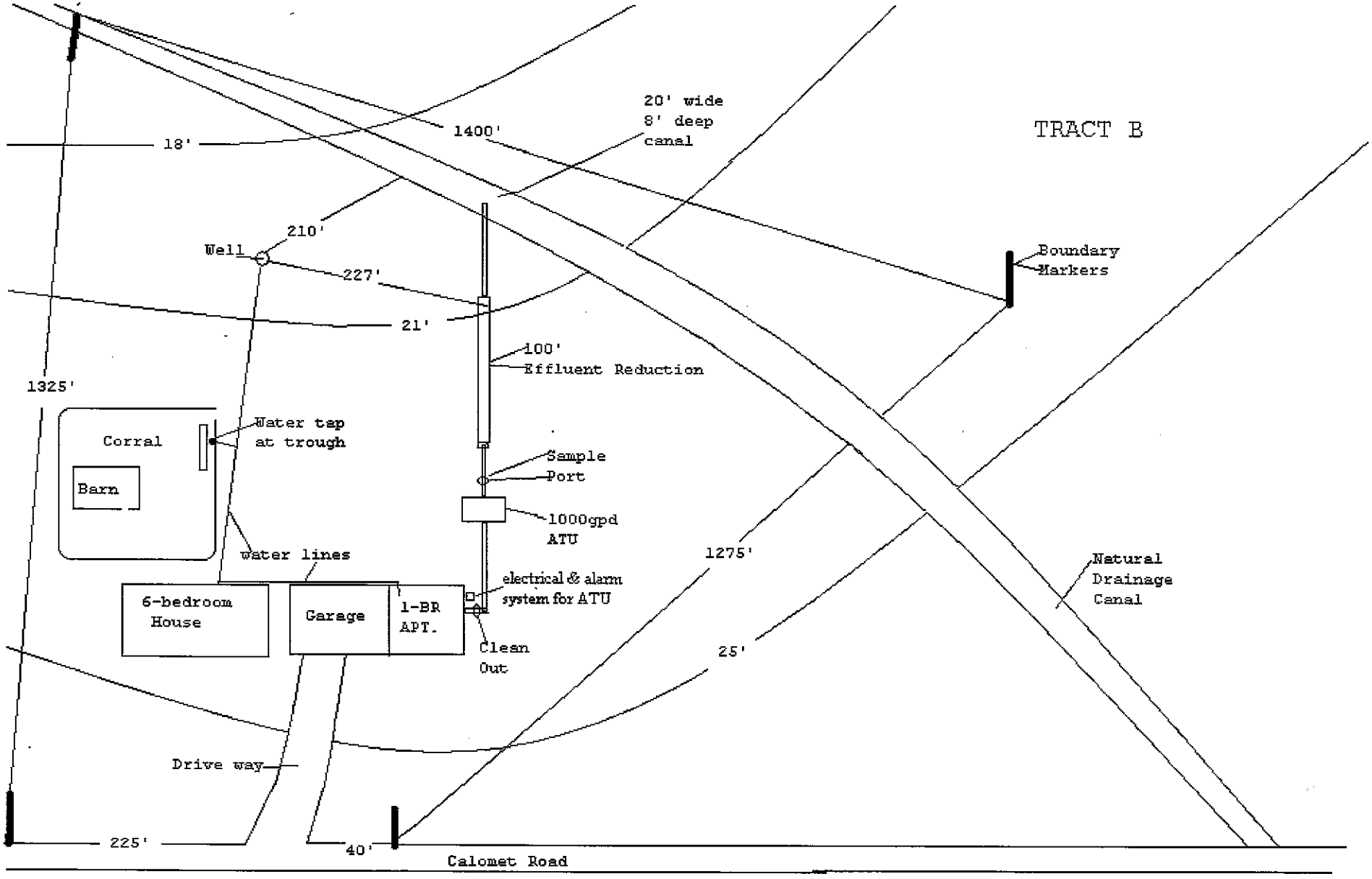
Witness:

_____
Signature

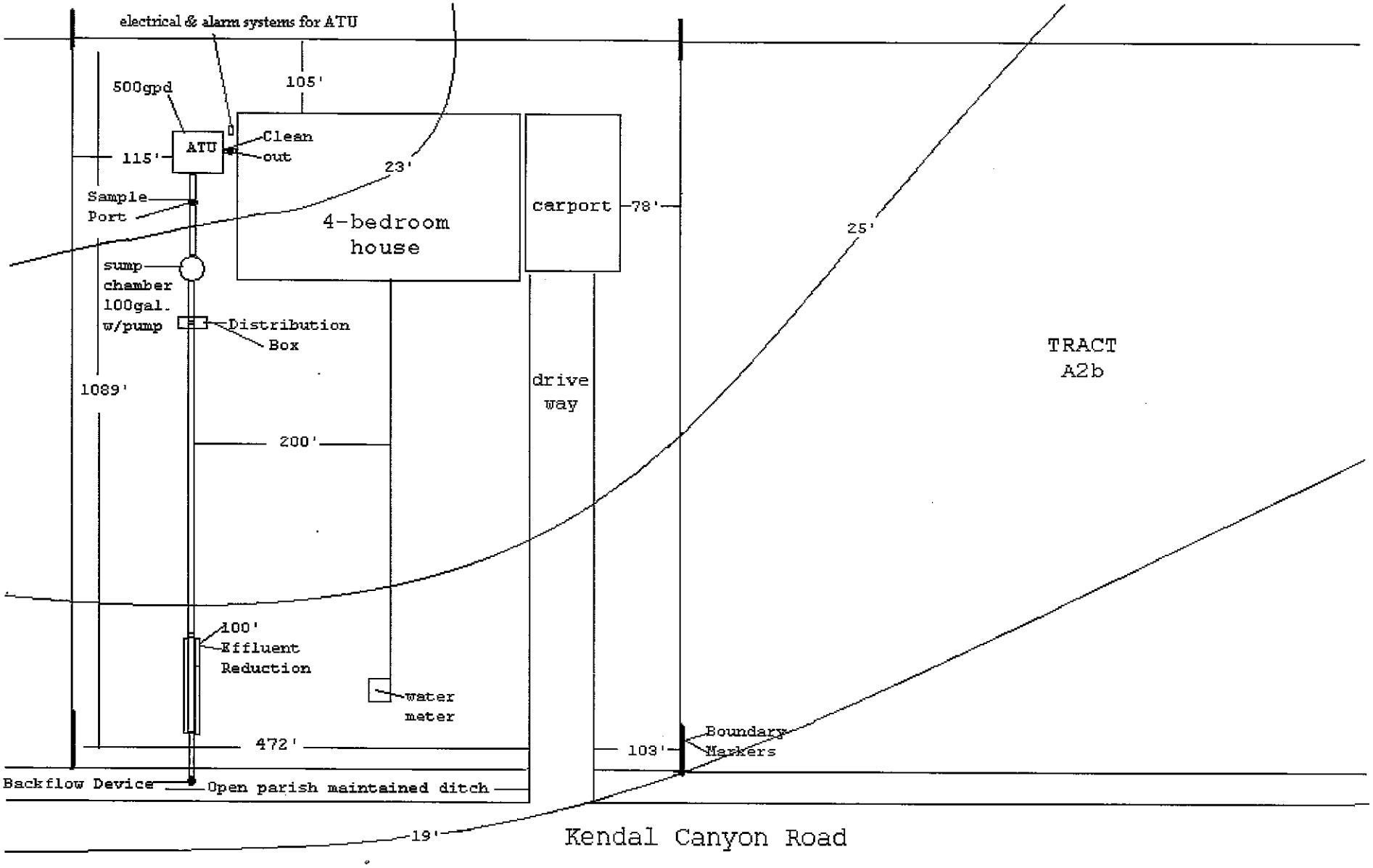
_____
Printed Name

_____
Signature of Permit Holder

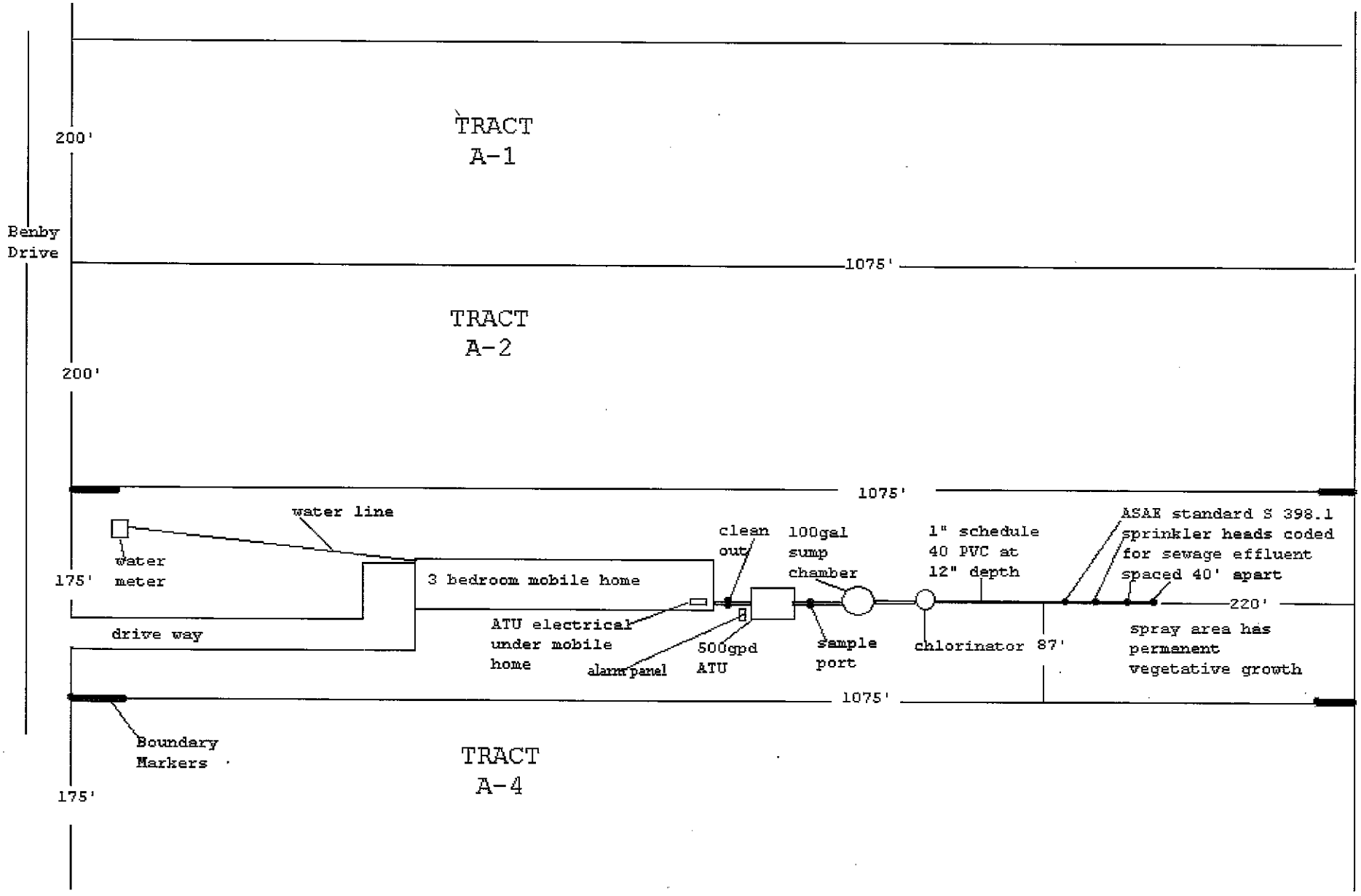
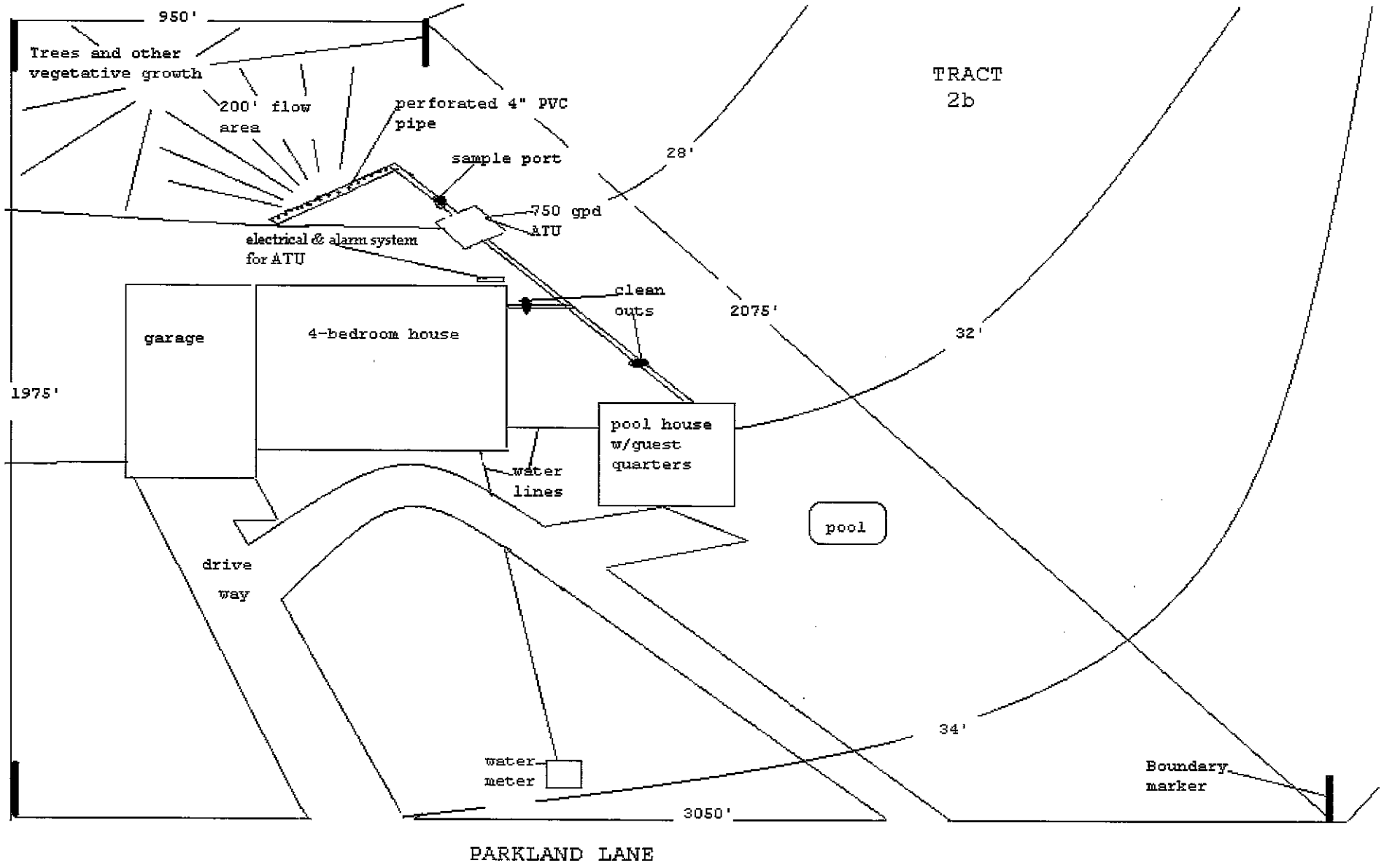
Aerobic Treatment Unit with Effluent Reduction Field



Aerobic Treatment Unit with Effluent Reduction Field



Aerobic Treatment Unit with Spray Irrigation



Aerobic Treatment Unit with Overland Flow