STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health Section

March 30, 2016

David Potts
Geomatrix Systems, LLC
114 Mill Rock Road East
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Re: GeoMat 1200 & GeoMat 3900 Spacing Reduction Approval

Dear Mr. Potts:

This Department has reviewed your request for approval of reduced spacing for Geomatrix Systems' GeoMat 1200 and GeoMat 3900 proprietary leaching systems when the products are installed no deeper than 12 inches below finished grade and with low-pressure effluent distribution. The Department's *Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems* (Technical Standards) includes a provision in Section VIII H that allows this Department to consider spacing reductions for certain leaching systems if it is satisfactorily demonstrated the system can be installed without compromising the system installation. The Geomatrix GeoMat products qualify for reduced spacing consideration, and it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that they can be installed at reduced spacing without compromising the system installation.

Consideration of reduced spacing for higher rated leaching system products raises concern about potential increased groundwater mounding in the leaching system area, especially when effluent is not uniformly applied. Language in the Technical Standards ties broader consideration of reduced leaching system spacing to the adoption of criterion for crediting limitations for internal product interfaces. The current Technical Standards language allows this Department to authorize spacing configurations that are similar to those afforded to the new leaching system category in the code, referred to as proprietary pressure-dosed dispersal systems.

In recognition of the benefits of uniform effluent distribution and shallow leaching system installations, this Department has elected at this time to only consider spacing reductions for shallow leaching systems in low-pressure effluent distribution applications.

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In addition, each approval granted for a leaching system spacing reduction must provide for a specified minimum distance between the edges of parallel leaching system rows. The minimum edge to edge (E to E) distance is correlated to the product's effective leaching area (ELA) rating. A minimum of six (6) inches E to E between leaching product rows is required for each one (1) square foot, or part thereof, of ELA product credit. The minimum E to E separation requirements are intended to streamline reviews, and to avoid additional groundwater mounding concerns associated with higher rated leaching products. This Department will consider, on a case by case basis, requests for alternative spacing proposals that are included in a decentralized sewage system management plan that addresses upgrades of existing sewage disposal systems.

The GeoMat 1200 leaching product has an ELA credit of 1.0 square feet per linear foot (SF/LF), and the GeoMat 3900 leaching product has an ELA credit of 3.0 SF/LF. Based on the above noted E to E separation requirements, the GeoMat 1200 and the GeoMat 3900 spacing reductions must provide 6 and 18 inches, respectively, between product rows. The GeoMat 1200 product is 12 inches wide and the GeoMat 3900 product is 39 inches wide. The associated center to center (C to C) spacing that provides the cited minimum E to E separation is 18 and 57 inches, respectively, for the GeoMat 1200 and GeoMat 3900 leaching products.

This Department hereby APPROVES a GeoMat 1200 minimum spacing of 18 inches C to C and 6 inches E to E, and a GeoMat 3900 minimum spacing of 57 inches C to C and 18 inches E to E when the products are installed no deeper than 12 inches below finished grade and with low-pressure effluent distribution. This letter may be reproduced as a means of notifying local health officials, engineers, and installers of this Department's spacing reduction approval for the GeoMat 1200 and GeoMat 3900 leaching system products. This letter should not be construed to be an endorsement of the GeoMat leaching system, nor does it convey intellectual property rights.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Scully, PE
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Environmental Engineering Program

Cc: Code Advisory Committee
Local Health Officials
Email Distribution List