



Calvert County Bay Restoration Fund Program Process Description

1/4/2024

We appreciate your interest in replacing your existing on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS) with the Best Available Technology (BAT) for removal of nitrogen. This document outlines the steps that must be taken to proceed with the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) grant for the installation of a BAT system.

System Evaluation

In order to move forward to secure BRF grant funds, the existing tank and the existing disposal component (drainfields, drywells, seepage pits, sand mounds, etc.) must be thoroughly evaluated by a qualified inspector who should generate a detailed report of the results. A system evaluation is necessary because we need to determine what components of the system can remain in use. Additionally, assessment of the condition of the existing OSDS components may confirm that the system is indeed failing, which aids in prioritization of applications. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requires that all grant awards be prioritized with failing systems in the critical area receiving the highest priority followed by failing systems outside of the critical area.

Sanitary Construction Permit Application

An *Onsite Sewage Disposal Installation Application & Permit* must be applied for and issued by this office prior to any construction work on the OSDS on your property. The *Onsite Sewage Disposal Installation Application & Permit* can be obtained and submitted to our office at: 205 Duke Street, Prince Frederick any time Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm excluding holidays. The fee for the *Onsite Sewage Disposal Installation Application & Permit* to replace an OSDS system varies and may not be paid with BRF funds.

Percolation Test and Site Evaluation

Percolation tests are required to be conducted on all replacement systems where the system evaluation reveals that the disposal component needs replacement. The percolation test will dictate the specifications of the replacement disposal component. Specifications will be issued by this office in the form of a *Replacement On-Site Sewage Disposal System Minimum Parameters Site Evaluation Results* document following the percolation test. This information may be used to obtain cost estimates from licensed and qualified septic installers for the portion of the project that will be your financial responsibility. Please note that the same contractor must install the BAT tank (paid by the grant) and any other replacement components (paid by the property owner).

Financial responsibility

The BRF grant will **only** pay for replacement of your existing septic tank with a BAT system and will not fund the replacement of any other portion of the system (including drainfields/other disposal components, separate pump systems, electrical upgrades, if necessary, landscape restoration, or other elective upgrades). The BRF grant will provide 100% funding for the BAT system installation only for

those property owners who earn less than \$300,000/year or non-profit entities. Property owners who earn more than \$300,000/year and any for profit businesses will receive only 50% of the funding for the BAT system installation. Properties owned by a trust may receive full-funding, if the income criteria of all trustees is below \$300,000/year.

System Selection

The BRF program allows property owners to choose which Class 1 BAT technology they wish to receive funding. It is important that property owners review the ranking and evaluation information for each eligible BAT system prior to selection. Below you will find ranking and evaluation information for all Class 1 BAT systems for your review:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/BayRestorationFund/OnsiteDisposalSystems/Documents/BAT%20Ranking%20Document.pdf>.

Model	Contact info	Percent Total Nitrogen reduction	Electrical Costs per year in \$	O&M ¹ costs per year after 2 years	System Cost paid by grant	Discharge pump included Y/N
Fuji Clean CEN 5	Bay Area Environmental Dwayne Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	77%	\$62.54	\$225	\$17,941	N
Fuji Clean CEN 7	Bay Area Environmental Dwayne Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	77%	\$90.75	\$225	\$20,329	N
Advantex® RT	Atlantic Solutions, Ltd. 1-877-214-9283. bjohnson@septicssystems.net	76%	\$29.43	\$225	\$25,791	Y
Advantex® AX20	Atlantic Solutions, Ltd. 1-877-214-9283. bjohnson@septicssystems.net	71%	\$29.43	\$225	\$22,556	N
SeptiTech® M400D	Bay Area Environmental Dwayne Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	67%	\$243.75	\$275	\$22,559	Y
Hydro-Action® AN series	Outback Porta-Jon, Inc. Steve Willson 410-257-1600 Willson05@comcast.net	66%	\$102.80	\$300	\$18,398	N
Hoot® 600 BNR	Mayer Bros. Nancy Mayer 410-796-1434 nancy@mayerprecast.com	64%	\$107.21	\$325	\$21,845	Y
BioMicrobics RetroFAST ²	Bay Area Environmental Dwayne Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	57%	\$196.22	\$275	\$17,220	N
Singulair TNT	Superior Tank Jeff Earnshaw 301-274-3772 superiortank@olg.com	55%	\$137.15	\$325	\$15,908	N
AquaKlear	BayStar Precast Corp. Dave Care 410-977-3453 Careless32@comcast.net	54%	\$41.82	\$250	\$17,151	N

Please note that the annual Operation & Maintenance (O&M) cost is what MDE has provided and may not be current.

¹ Operation and Maintenance

²Limited to 1-4 occupants and 3 bedrooms maximum.

Agreement

All grant recipients will need to make an agreement with the Calvert County Health Department prior to award. This *Calvert County Bay Restoration Fund Agreement and Easement For Installation of Best Available Technology Systems With Bay Restoration Grant Funds* document shall to be signed by all property owners and the Director of Environmental Health in wet ink. The agreement shall be recorded

to the land records of Calvert County. A small fee of \$60 applies for recordation of the agreement. Applicants will have the option (once all signatures have been obtained) to walk the agreement across the street to the Land Records Office in the Circuit Courthouse at 175 Main St. or bring a check for \$60 to our office made out to "Clerk of the Circuit Court" and we will have the agreement recorded.

Contracts

A BAT Vendor contract for the chosen BAT technology installation shall be made between you (the property owner), the vendor of the BAT system, the chosen septic installer and the Calvert County Health Department. This BAT vendor contract outlines the terms of installation of a BAT system with BRF grant funds. Additionally, a contract with a qualified septic installer of your choice (licensed in Calvert County, certified to install BATs, and certified by the manufacturer's rep) will need to be made for the portions of the project that are not funded by the BRF grant (everything else besides replacement of the tank). Those contracts must be submitted to this office prior to receiving the grant award.

Award Notification and Expiration Date of Grant

Once all the above items have been addressed (application submitted, system evaluated, permit applied for and received, perc test completed, agreement received and recorded, BAT system selected and contracts) this office will inform property owners, BAT vendors and septic installers that they may proceed with the installation of the system. The contractor must complete the work within 60 days of the award notification. Property owners who have been notified of being awarded the grant who are not able to have their systems installed by the expiration date will need to submit an extension request to our office. If the extension request is denied, the owner may need to reapply. **THE GRANT IS NOT AWARDED UNTIL A STAFF MEMBER NOTIFIES THE PROPERTY OWNER AND CONTRACTOR OF THE GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION BY EMAIL.** If the tank is installed without written documentation of a Grant award from our office, the Bay Restoration Fund grant program **SHALL NOT** pay for the tank. It will then become the homeowner's responsibility to pay for the tank.

Installation and Final Inspection

The qualified septic installer of your choice will be responsible for scheduling the BAT installation and hiring an electrician (or any other subcontractors necessary) to complete the electrical work for the system. An electrical installation permit must be obtained by the licensed electrician from the Calvert County Office of Inspections and Permits and inspections of the electrical work must be conducted and approved. The installer will be responsible for calling in and receiving all inspections of the BAT system installation (both with this office and Inspections and Permits). Payments will be made by this office to the vendor of the BAT for all systems installed through the BRF program only following satisfactory and complete inspection of all work. The vendor of the BAT system is responsible for payment to all subcontractors for BRF awarded projects.

Settling and Return Visit

Settling around the BAT unit will occur for a period of 3-6 months (and sometimes longer) after installation. This is typical. The bid price from the vendor of the BAT unit includes one return visit to the property following installation to fill in any holes that develop around the unit due to the installation. The installer will perform the filling in of settled areas only after you have contacted them to do so. This office recommends waiting for a period of 3-6 months before calling the installer for this so that the soils

have adequate time to complete the settling process. Watering the area will expedite the settling process.

If you have any further questions about Class I BAT systems, I invite you to visit:

<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/BayRestorationFund/OnsiteDisposalSystems/Pages/index.aspx> . Additionally, you may also contact Brooke Hebb at mdh-dl-calchd-environmentalhealthcchd@maryland.gov

with any questions regarding BAT systems or the grant process.