

Calvert County Bay Restoration Fund Program Process Description

6/29/2020

If you are receiving this document it means that you have previously applied for the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) Grant. We appreciate your interest in replacing your existing on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS) with the Best Available Technology (BAT) for removal of nitrogen! The remainder of this document will outline the remaining steps that must be taken to proceed with the grant for the installation of a BAT system through the BRF grant.

System Evaluation

It is imperative for both the existing tank and the existing disposal component (drainfields, drywells, seepage pits, sand mounds, etc) be thoroughly evaluated by a qualified inspector prior to receiving a grant award. This is necessary because we need to determine what components of the system are capable of remaining in use and the condition of said components but also to confirm that the system is indeed failing for prioritization purposes. The Maryland Department of the Environment 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

A sanitary construction permit must be issued by this office prior to any construction work on the OSDS on your property and must be applied for prior to conducting a percolation test. Sanitary construction permit applications can be obtained and submitted in our office at 150 Main St. Suite 100, Prince Frederick any time Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm excluding holidays. The fee for replacement systems is \$175 and this fee may not be paid for with BRF funds.

Percolation Test and Site Evaluation

Percolation tests will need to be conducted on all replacement systems where the system evaluation reveals that the disposal component needs replacement, renovation or addition. A site evaluation will be conducted at the time of the percolation test unless a replacement disposal component is unnecessary and in those cases a site evaluation will be conducted by this office without a percolation test (no fees or permits required for site evaluations). The percolation test will dictate the specifications of the replacement disposal component. Specifications will be issued by this office in the form of an issued sanitary construction permit following the percolation test. This information may be used to obtain cost estimates from qualified septic installers for the portion of the project that will be your financial responsibility.

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 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 business will receive only 50% of the funding for the BAT system installation. Properties owned by a trust will receive 50% funding. Additionally, there are a few systems (see table below) that are not fully covered by grant funds due to performance ranking factors and if one of those

system is selected the balance due for the system installation must either be paid by the property owner or the vendor of the BAT system. Any portion of system installations that isn't grant funded must be paid directly to the vendor and the Calvert County Health Department assumes no responsibility for those payments.

System Selection

The revised BRF program allows property owners to choose which Class 1 BAT technology they wish to receive funding for. 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: (also see <http://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&M¹ costs per year after 2 years	System Cost paid by grant	Discharge pump included Y/N
Fuji Clean CEN 5	Bay Area Environmental Don Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	77%	\$62.54	\$185	\$13,367	N
Fuji Clean CEN 7	Bay Area Environmental Don Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	77%	\$90.75	\$185	\$14,866	N
Advantex [®] RT	Atlantic Solutions, Ltd. 1-877-214-9283. bjohnson@septicystems.net	76%	\$29.43	\$175	\$16,610*	Y
Advantex [®] AX20	Atlantic Solutions, Ltd. 1-877-214-9283. bjohnson@septicystems.net	71%	\$29.43	\$175	\$15,508	N
SeptiTech [®]	Bay Area Environmental Don Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	67%	\$243.75	\$275	\$14,526*	Y
Hydro-Action [®] AN series	Outback Porta-Jon, Inc. Steve Willson 410-257-1600 Willson05@comcast.net	66%	\$102.80	\$300	\$12,422	N
Hoot [®] BNR	Mayer Bros. Nancy Mayer 410-796-1434 nancy@mayerprecast.com	64%	\$107.21	\$300	\$13,814*	Y
RetroFAST ²	Bay Area Environmental Don Jones 410-836-9206 manager@jonespumpservice.com	57%	\$196.22	\$275	\$12,318	N
Singular TNT	Superior Tank Jeff Earnshaw 301-274-3772 superiortank@olg.com	55%	\$137.15	\$300	\$10,402	N
Singular Green	Superior Tank Jeff Earnshaw 301-274-3772 superiortank@olg.com	55%	\$137.15	\$300	\$10,402	N
AquaKlear	BayStar Precast Corp. Dave Care 410-977-3453 Careless32@comcast.net	54%	\$41.82	\$250	\$11,659*	N

¹ Operation and Maintenance

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

*Subject to a match price based on performance ranking factors and may result in additional charges to property owners.

Agreement

All grant recipients will need to make an agreement with the Calvert County Health Department prior to award. This agreement shall to be signed by the property owner as well as the Director of Environmental Health. 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 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 that 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 an award.

Award Notification and Expiration Date of Grant

Once all of the above items have been addressed (application submitted, system evaluation, permit, perc test, agreement, system selection and contracts) this office will inform property owners, BAT vendors and septic installers that they may proceed with the installation of the system and that the work must be completed within 45 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, then 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, then the Grant **WILL 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 inspection of all work. The vendor of the BAT system is responsible for payment 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 assist in expediting 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 Taylor Merchant at taylor.merchant@maryland.gov with any questions regarding BAT systems or the grant process.