



Water Quality Division

RULE CLARIFICATION

RC #: 002	Title: 18	Chapter: 9	Article: 3	Rule Citation: R18-9-A310
Date Issued: 2/20/01			Withdrawn or Superseded? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	
Topic of Rule Needing Clarification: Site investigation for on-site wastewater treatment facilities (site investigation qualifications)				
Text of Rule Needing Clarification: R18-9-A310(B): “The investigator shall perform a site investigation if an on-site wastewater treatment facility is proposed for installation.”				
Question Needing Clarification: What specific qualifications are needed for a person to perform the site investigation required by R18-9-A310?				
Clarification of Rule: R18-9-A310 requires that a site investigation be performed where installation of an on-site wastewater treatment facility is proposed. However, this rule does not specify minimum qualifications for the investigator performing the site investigation. The purpose of the site investigation is to identify conditions at the site relevant to siting the system, selecting the proper system, and designing the selected system. Both “non-soil” conditions (conformance with setback requirements, site slope, and potentially adverse surface drainage features) and soil conditions must be examined. The investigator must characterize soil conditions to determine the ability of the soil to absorb wastewater and provide final treatment, and to identify any limiting conditions. The rule provides for two methods to determine the ability of the soil to absorb wastewater: the percolation test method and the soil evaluation method. Special knowledge and skills are required to properly perform the site investigation, especially the soil characterization aspects. The following persons are considered to typically possess appropriate knowledge and skills:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Arizona-registered professional engineer who applies “the technical knowledge and skill which would be applied by all other registrants who practice the same profession in the same area at the same time.” [Quoted text here and in following item is from rule of the Arizona Board of Technical Registration, Arizona Administrative Code, R4-30-301(A)(7)]. 2. An Arizona-registered geologist who applies “the technical knowledge and skill which would be applied by all other registrants who practice the same profession in the same area at the same time.” 3. An Arizona-registered sanitarian with knowledge and competence in the subject area. 4. A representative of a delegated agency with knowledge and competence in the subject area. 5. A representative of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality with knowledge and competence in the subject area. 6. A person who has been certified or approved by a recognized authority as having knowledge and competence in the subject area. 7. A person who has otherwise demonstrated to the Department or the delegated agency knowledge and competence in the subject area. 				