

# Performance Management

Steve  
Mikowski  
8/16/2022

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**Richard J. Otis, P.E.**

*Small Flows Quarterly* is sponsored by:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Steve Hoggie | Project Officer

Municipal Support Division, Office of Wastewater Management, Washington, D.C.

National Small Flows Clearinghouse at West Virginia University

John L. Mori, Ph.D. | Manager

WVU Environmental Services and Training Division

MANAGEMENT



Editor's Note: Richard Otis is vice president of applied technologies for Ayres Associates in Madison, Wisconsin.

**I**n the last two decades, the perception of onsite wastewater treatment and the role it will play in the future has dramatically changed. For much of the Twentieth Century, onsite treatment was thought to be appropriate only for remote, rural homes. In more urbanized areas beyond the reach of existing sewers, onsite systems were assumed only to be interim methods of treatment that would be quickly abandoned as sewers were extended. It is now widely recognized in the United States that conventional sewerage will not be able to meet the demand for wastewater treatment because of both monetary and non-monetary costs. It will be onsite systems that will provide the necessary treatment needed for unsewered areas but only if they are accepted as effective, reliable treatment systems.

Treatment	Redefining
System	Roles and
Management	Responsibilities
in the New	for Onsite
Millennium	Wastewater

*Small Flows Quarterly, Winter 2000, Volume 1, Number 1*

29

## Translation of the above United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) statement.

*It's a classic effort of a well-intentioned government bureaucracy, left to do its own thing, gone awry because the US Congress established it with no accountability. It now has to re-invent itself and create a new 'raison d'etre' (need to exist) so Congress will disgorge Strillions so it can make more mistakes.*

*c1183111302epasmfllwswnt2002 by S. P. Mikowski*

"We at the EPA set up the flawed and defective purpose from the 1960's to 2000 to construct the most expensive sewers possible everywhere in the US and connect every home and everyone to them. We 'planned' to do it with 'free' grant monies from every US inhabitant's Uncle Sam. We've 'discovered' though, that there isn't enough money in the world to do that...ever! We pursued our flawed and defective purpose for 40 years. While doing that we have neglected to make any effort to work on practical and scientific work to improve the performance of the most reliable and well-proven sewage disposal now currently in use at over 20,000,000 locations. The On-Site economical treatment system consisting of a Septic Tank & Drainfield on residential properties. These are functioning well and will continue to do so for many years as they have done in the past with a minimum about of cost and little Federal Bureaucratic intrusion."

"We're sorry for this stupid mistake so we'll re-invent ourselves into a more intrusive bureaucracy to harass homeowners, etc. with on-site systems. We'll begin directly regulating on-site systems, even as we admit we don't know shit from shinola about them. But, give us a few years to make another big mistake as we take over your properties with our misguided efforts (as we have done for the past 40 years). We, at the EPA, know homeowners are too dumb to understand that on-site systems are practical, simple and have worked well for over a hundred years. So, we know you can't wait for us to screw it up for you."