

(C) Restrictive horizons analysis. The soils within the borings or backhoe pits shall be analyzed by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer to determine if a restrictive horizon exists. Clay subsoils, rock, and plugged laminar soils are considered restrictive horizons. Restrictive horizons are recognized by an abrupt change in texture from a sandy or loamy surface horizon to:

- (i) a clayey subsoil which an auger will not penetrate; or
- (ii) rock-like material which an auger will not penetrate.

(2) Groundwater evaluation. The soil profile shall be examined by either a site evaluator or a professional engineer to determine if there are indications of groundwater within 24 inches of the bottom of the excavation.

(A) If the designated representative and the site evaluator or the professional engineer disagree on the presence of groundwater, the designated representative shall verify groundwater information using the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey for that county, if it is available.

(B) If the designated representative or the site evaluator or the professional engineer disagree with the NRCS soil survey, or if an NRCS soil survey does not exist for that county, the owner has the option to retain a certified professional soil scientist to evaluate the presence of groundwater and present that information to the designated representative for a final decision.

(3) Surface drainage analysis.

(A) Topography. The slope of each tract of land where an OSSF will be installed, areas of poor drainage such as depressions, and areas of complex slope patterns where slopes are dissected by gullies and ravines shall be determined. All slope patterns shall be clearly indicated on the site drawing, as required in §285.5(a) of this title.

(B) Flood hazard. The 100-year floodplain for each tract of land where an OSSF will be installed shall be determined from either Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps or from a flood study prepared by a professional engineer when FEMA maps are not available. The 100-year flood boundaries shall be clearly indicated on the site drawing, as required in §285.5(a) of this title. The drawing(s) shall also indicate if the 100-year floodplain does not exist within the tract.

(4) Separation requirements. All features in the area where the OSSF is to be installed that could be contaminated by the OSSF or could prevent the proper operation of the system shall be identified during the site evaluation. The separation requirements are in §285.91(10) of this title. All features and separation distances shall be clearly indicated on the site drawing, as required in §285.5(a) of this title.

Source Note: The provisions of this §285.30 adopted to be effective June 13, 2001, 26 TexReg 4115; amended to be effective December 17, 2001, 26 TexReg 10363; amended to be effective September 11, 2008, 33 TexReg 7536

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