

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to distributed wastewater treatment  
 3           system permits; amending s. 403.814, F.S.; providing  
 4           definitions; authorizing a general permit for the  
 5           replacement of certain septic systems and the  
 6           installation of certain wastewater treatment units;  
 7           providing requirements for such permits and  
 8           permittees; providing an effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12           **Section 1. Subsection (13) is added to section 403.814,**  
 13 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

14           403.814 General permits; delegation.—

15           (13) (a) As used in this subsection, the term:

16           1. "Distributed wastewater treatment system" means a  
 17 category of domestic wastewater facility consisting of one or  
 18 more distributed wastewater treatment units.

19           2. "Distributed wastewater treatment unit" means an  
 20 advanced onsite closed-tank wastewater treatment system that is:

21           a. Designed to achieve secondary treatment standards and a  
 22 minimum of 80 percent total nitrogen removal before discharge to  
 23 a subsurface application system; and

24           b. Remotely operated and controlled by the permittee using  
 25 an electronic control system.

26        (b) A general permit is granted for the replacement of  
27 septic systems subject to s. 381.0065 that have a distributed  
28 wastewater treatment system which is commonly owned and operated  
29 by the permittee in accordance with this subsection. The  
30 installation of a distributed wastewater treatment unit under  
31 the permit may proceed without any further agency action by the  
32 department if, at least 30 days before installation of the  
33 distributed wastewater treatment unit, a notification certifying  
34 that the unit was designed by a professional registered in this  
35 state in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter and  
36 will meet all of the following requirements:

37        1. The design capacity of the distributed wastewater  
38 treatment unit will not exceed 10,000 gallons per day of  
39 domestic wastewater or 5,000 gallons per day of commercial  
40 wastewater.

41        2. The distributed wastewater treatment unit may discharge  
42 without disinfection into a slow-rate subsurface application  
43 system that is designed and operated to protect public health  
44 and safety and meets the current separation from, and at all  
45 times has a minimum of 12 inches of separation from, the  
46 seasonal high groundwater.

47        3. Horizontal setback distances from the distributed  
48 wastewater treatment unit and subsurface application system to  
49 property lines, surface waterbodies, potable water wells, and  
50 utilities are consistent with rules adopted under s. 381.0065

51 and this chapter.

52 (c) A permittee under this subsection must:

53 1. Have legal access to maintain, operate, and, in the  
54 case of termination of service, remove the distributed  
55 wastewater treatment unit.

56 2. Submit a plan for conducting monthly effluent  
57 compliance sampling of a representative number of deployed  
58 distributed wastewater treatment units, the results of which may  
59 be aggregated to determine compliance with performance standards  
60 consistent with this subsection and rules adopted under this  
61 chapter.

62 3. Conduct monthly reporting, annual inspections,  
63 recordkeeping, and biosolids management consistent with rules  
64 adopted under this chapter.

65 4. Have staffing and visitation by licensed operators in a  
66 manner that is consistent with rules adopted under this chapter,  
67 except that visitation may be accomplished using an electronic  
68 control system.

69 (d) The operation of any distributed wastewater treatment  
70 unit installed under the general permit may not:

71 1. Create saturated conditions on the ground surface;  
72 2. Adversely impact wetlands or other surface waters; or  
73 3. Cause or contribute to a violation of state water  
74 quality standards.

75 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.