



# Representative Bryan Nelson

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March 25, 2011

Research Review and Advisory Committee  
C/O Ms. Elke Ursin  
Environmental Health Program Consultant  
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs  
Florida Department of Health

*Via Electronic Correspondence*

Dear Members of Research Review and Advisory Committee:

It has come to our attention that clarification is necessary regarding the definition of "passive" as utilized for the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Project authorized by the Florida Legislature. It is our firm intent to resolve this issue by providing explicit clarification for what passive should mean in regards to the above-mentioned study.

Passive on-site wastewater treatment is to be defined as "a type of onsite sewage treatment and disposable system that carries household wastewater from the residence to a septic tank, and includes an absorption component known as a gravity drainfield, with exception only in the case that the 24" water separation cannot be met by the property, in which case up to one pump may be used to facilitate the transfer of effluent upwards. As passive system excludes the use of aerator pumps, but may use a reactive media to assist in nitrogen removal."

As stated within the budget language in 2008 (Line Item 1682, House Bill 5001, General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008-2009), this study was authorized to "...develop **passive** strategies for nitrogen reduction that **complement use of conventional** onsite wastewater treatment systems."

Certainly, the committee understands the importance of preserving our natural resources while providing the necessary services for our community. Smart, responsible development and environmental policies should be advocated for the benefit of Florida's residents and environment. We look forward to the continued success of this study within the parameters specified and now clarified. Should there be any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,  
Members of the Florida Legislature Signed Below

*Proudly Serving Northwest Orange County*

**Insurance and Banking Subcommittee, Chair; Economic Affairs Committee; Government Operations  
Appropriations Subcommittee; Government Operations Policy Committee; Select Committee on Water  
Policy; Orange County Legislative Delegation, Past Chair**