

567—90.10(455B) NPS project procedures—onsite wastewater system assistance linked-deposit program (OSWAP). The purpose of the OSWAP is to assist homeowners to rehabilitate or improve existing PSDSs.

90.10(1) Eligibility conditions and restrictions. Assistance under the OSWAP shall be in the form of low-interest loans made by participating lending institutions through a linked deposit arrangement with the CWSRF.

a. Location restrictions. Assistance is available for the improvement or rehabilitation of PSDSs serving homes that are not connected to a POTW.

b. County eligibility. Assistance shall be provided only for systems located in counties that have an environmental health program that meets the requirements of 567—Chapter 69 for PSDSs. At a minimum, counties shall carry out statutory responsibilities as provided in Iowa Code section 455B.172 and provide for:

(1) Site evaluations to determine the appropriate design and size of PSDSs prior to permitting and installation.

(2) Inspection of PSDSs at the time of renovation or construction.

(3) Assurance of regular system maintenance and monitoring for the life of the loan.

c. Eligible project costs. The amount of assistance available shall be limited to the total costs deemed necessary, reasonable, and directly related to the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of a PSDS.

d. Applicant eligibility. Assistance is limited to applicants who meet the applicable provisions of 567—Chapter 69 and all other local provisions for the siting and construction of PSDSs.

e. Eligible projects. Assistance can be provided only for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing PSDSs. Assistance is not available for new housing.

90.10(2) Applying for assistance.

a. Prior to applying for a loan from a participating lending institution, an eligible individual or entity must demonstrate appropriate permitting from the county in which the PSDS is located.

b. Application for assistance shall be made on forms provided by the department or its agent. Forms may be downloaded from www.iowasrf.com.

c. Applications for assistance shall include:

(1) A description of the type and general specifications of the proposed work;

(2) An estimate of the population and number of households to be served; and

(3) A description of the system maintenance and monitoring program.

90.10(3) County review and approval.

a. The county shall review applications to determine if a project meets the applicable provisions of 567—Chapter 69 and all other relevant local provisions for the siting and construction of PSDSs.

b. For projects that meet relevant criteria, the county shall issue a permit or certificate. The county permit or certificate shall be accompanied by a cost estimate.

c. A county may deny an application for noncompliance with applicable state and local criteria. Written notification of the denial shall be provided to the applicant and shall state the reason(s) for denial.

90.10(4) Eligible costs. All costs directly related to the design, permitting, construction, and financing of a PSDS are eligible for loans. Eligible costs include the removal of existing structures, earth moving, or any land purchases directly related to proper wastewater treatment.

90.10(5) Ineligible costs. Costs for additional earthwork, replanting, or any other aesthetic improvements are not eligible. Maintenance or monitoring costs will not be allowed as part of a loan.

90.10(6) Recipient recordkeeping. The loan recipient shall:

a. Maintain adequate records that document all costs associated with the project;

b. Provide access to these records to the department, the state auditor, the EPA SRF project manager, and the EPA Office of the Inspector General; and

c. Retain all project records and documents for inspection and audit purposes for a period of three years from the date of the final loan payment.

90.10(7) Site access. The loan recipient shall:

a. Provide the department and the administrative authority access to the construction site to verify that the loan was used for the purpose intended and that the constructed works meet applicable state and local environmental requirements and ordinances for PSDSs; and

b. Provide access to the system for periodic monitoring by the department and administrative authority, at times mutually agreed upon with the system owner, for the duration of the loan.

90.10(8) *Priority allocation of funds and IUP.* The department shall, in the annual IUP, describe the amount of funding available for loans under the OSWAP for the coming state fiscal year.

90.10(9) *Targeted assistance.* The department may budget a portion of the annual available funds identified in the IUP for financing PSDSs in targeted areas. Such targeted areas may include impaired watersheds, high-density housing areas, agricultural drainage areas, or other environmentally sensitive or degraded areas where the repair and rehabilitation of PSDSs are needed to preserve and protect water quality. The annual IUP shall specify the need for targeted assistance, the areas covered, and the estimate of funds needed to address the water quality problems.

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