

CONSTRUCTION OF A SEPTIC SYSTEM IN DREDGE TAILINGS

The construction of an absorption bed over a sufficient thickness of suitable soil (sand/silt) provides ample treatment against the migration of organics and bacteria.

Isolation distances should be examined carefully with respect to the proximity of surface water and potable water supplies, given that the migration of the effluent will likely be direct due to the coarse nature of the underlying tailings (a minimum of 200 feet is recommended).

Design criteria for a septic system in dredge tailings is as per the "Standards for Onsite Domestic Sewage Treatment in the Yukon" except for the following modifications to the absorption bed:

- Minimum of 6 feet of accepting soil [sand/silt with a percolation rate of 5 min./25 mm (1 in.) or slower] is to be provided beneath the drain rock.
- Accepting soil is to extend a minimum of 6 feet horizontally from the distribution pipes, continuing a minimum depth of 6 feet.
- Geotextile is to be placed under the accepting soil at the dredge tailings interface and extend on all sides up to the upper layer of the geotextile.
- Finish grade over the bed must be mounded to exceed 2 feet beyond the edge of the extended absorption bed area to ensure the diversion of surface water.

EXAMPLE:

