

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

February 1, 2014

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol – Plaza Level 05
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

I am pleased to provide you with a status report on the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study. This report was prepared related to Line Item 493 Section 3, Conference Report on Senate Bill 1500, General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

The 2013 Florida Legislature directed the Department of Health to continue and complete a study on passive strategies for nitrogen reduction which the legislature had originally authorized in 2008. The project remains on budget without cost over-runs. The contract for the project is scheduled to expire on January 16, 2015.

The contract provider has requested a one-year, no-cost schedule extension of the contract. The Department's Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC), which was given responsibility by the Legislature to oversee this project, has voted unanimously in favor of granting this no-cost schedule extension through January 16, 2016 to complete the project as outlined. The RRAC also voted in support of an appropriation for the remaining cash and budget authority necessary to complete the project. This schedule extension is crucial to allow the project to yield practical results that can be used to develop viable, cost-effective alternative passive technologies for use by homeowners for nitrogen issues associated with onsite systems.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerald R. Briggs at (850) 245-4075.

Sincerely,

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General & Secretary

JHA /grb
Enclosure

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The Honorable Don Gaetz
President, Florida Senate
212 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear President Gaetz:

I am pleased to provide you with a status report on the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study. This report was prepared related to Line Item 493 Section 3, Conference Report on Senate Bill 1500, General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

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February 1, 2014

The Honorable Will W. Weatherford
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Weatherford:

I am pleased to provide you with a status report on the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study. This report was prepared related to Line Item 493 Section 3, Conference Report on Senate Bill 1500, General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

The 2013 Florida Legislature directed the Department of Health to continue and complete a study on passive strategies for nitrogen reduction which the legislature had originally authorized in 2008. The project remains on budget without cost over-runs. The contract for the project is scheduled to expire on January 16, 2015.

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UPDATE ON THE FLORIDA ONSITE SEWAGE NITROGEN REDUCTION STRATEGIES STUDY December 2013

- Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies study originally authorized in FY 08-09 budget, re-authorized each year, including in the FY 13-14 budget
- Project purposes:
 - Develop cost-effective, passive strategies for nitrogen reduction by onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS)
 - Characterize nitrogen removal in the soil and shallow groundwater
 - Develop simple models on fate and transport of nitrogen in soil and groundwater
- Project budget: \$5.1 million
- Project expenses: approximately \$4.3 million
- Project timeline: January 2009 – January 2015, currently in fifth year

Summary of Cash Available, Expenses, and Balance of Funds

Fiscal Year	Cash	Contract Expenses	Balance
2008-2009	\$800,000 ¹	\$213,727	\$ 586,273
2009-2010	\$0	\$485,720	\$100,553
2010-2011	\$2,000,000	\$742,016	\$1,358,537
2011-2012	\$0	\$678,773	\$679,764
2012-2013	\$1,103,566 ²	\$1,103,566	\$679,764
2013-2014	\$184,798 ³	\$864,562 ⁴	\$0
2014-2015	\$650,000 ⁵	\$650,000 ⁴	\$0
2015-2016	\$261,636 ⁵	\$261,636 ⁴	\$0
TOTAL	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	

1 - \$900,000 was appropriated. \$800,000 for contract and \$100,000 for department administration of contract

2 - \$1,500,000 in non-recurring GR of which the contractor only spent \$1,103,566

3 - From DOH Trust Fund

4 - Estimated

5 - Required GR cash and budget authority appropriation based on estimated expenses

- Contract provider has requested a one-year, no-cost extension of the contract due to:
 - Delays caused by incremental funding
 - Unanticipated time spent providing complex deliverable productions and several resulting contract amendments
 - Unseasonably wet weather that delayed field installations
- Department's Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC), which was given responsibility by the Legislature to oversee this project, voted unanimously to:
 - Grant a no-cost schedule extension through January 16, 2016 to complete the project as outlined
 - Support the appropriation of the remaining cash and budget authority necessary to complete the project. Estimated amounts are shown in the above table.
- Project results will develop cost-effective nitrogen reduction strategies that will improve environmental and public health protection.