

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Drew P. Maranto
INTERIM SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Secretary

April 10, 2025

Amanda Ames, P.E., Chief Engineer
Bureau of Engineering Services
Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health
628 N. 4th Street | P.O. Box 4489
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Letter of Intent – Filtration Media (LAC 51:XII.177.A.6.d.i.) Requirements

Dear Ms. Ames:

The Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), Title 51 Public Health - State Sanitary Code, Part XII (Water Supplies), Section 177.A.6.d.i., requires a three-inch layer of torpedo sand as the supporting media for filter sand where supporting gravel is used. Based on your staff's research, states throughout the country have varying design standards regarding the use of a torpedo sand layer with support gravel. Due to the design of proprietary filter bottoms, media gradation provides the support required to maintain the defined levels of media layers during the backwash process. Therefore, in reference to this section it is my intent to allow the filtration design to reduce or eliminate the required three-inch layer of torpedo sand only when the following design requirements are strictly met.

1. The proposal is compliant with granular filter media requirements from AWWA B100 and the additional aspects mentioned in LAC 51:XII.177.A.6.a – c.
2. The proposal is supported by a manufacturer's recommendation against the use of torpedo sand in the particular application based on historical experience.
3. The proposal is supported by documented cases where the lack of torpedo sand in the filter media demonstrated successful removal of iron and/or manganese, and optimal filter performance over several years.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate. Should questions arise, they should be directed to Amanda Ames, P.E., Chief Engineer, Engineering Services at (225) 342-7499.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Ralph L. Abraham, M.D.
Surgeon General/State Health Officer