

Hi Dave:

You left me a voice message Friday; sorry I'm just now getting back to you.

You asked for a copy of my letter saying it's OK to send (drip system) flush water back to the pump chamber instead of the septic tank per the RS&G. I did send a message to Brent Raasina several years ago saying it would be OK under certain circumstances. However, rather than forward that email let me address it again here (because I wanted to add a couple thoughts).

There are a few cases where it makes sense to send flush water to the pump chamber:

1. where aerobic pretreatment is provided
2. with continuous flush systems or
3. where both of the above conditions apply

For aerobic treatment you could potentially harm the septic tank by introducing too much dissolved oxygen in the anaerobic environment of the septic tank.

With continuous flushing, sending flush water to the septic tank could hydraulically overload the septic tank and reduce retention time and settling. If the system flushes every dose cycle there shouldn't be much solids/debris generated (so sludge build up in the PC should be minimized). Another safety factor: the effluent in this system is filtered 3 times (standard septic tank effluent filter, 1/16 inch mesh pump screen/vault, and 100 micron or better MFR filter (disk or screen).

However, some systems may infrequently need a chemical flush (mild chlorine, vinegar or muriatic acid solution) to reduce slime buildup or scale in the dripline. To allow for that it's preferred to have the capability to send flush effluent back to the septic tank rather than discharge it directly to the soil via the pump chamber.

A practical solution might be to install a union or diversion/outlet fitting on the return line in a convenient place such as in the riser/headworks so (should it ever become necessary) the maintenance provider can hook a hose or flex line to it and divert flush water to the septic tank. In the cases mentioned above and with this modification I feel its OK to allow flush water to go to the pump chamber.

Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from me.

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