

North Carolina Private Permitting Options

Engineered Option Permitting (EOP):

[Engineered Option Permitting](#) (EOP) allows a professional engineer licensed under Chapter 89C of the General Statutes to design and permit a wastewater system for a property owner in accordance with G.S. 130A-336.1. The licensed engineer prepares signed and sealed drawings, specifications, plans, and reports for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the wastewater system in accordance with this section and rules adopted thereunder.



EOP Permits:

- Notice of Intent to Construct (NOI) – similar to the combination of the traditional Improvement Permit and Construction Authorization. Required for building permits.
- Authorization to Operate (ATO) – similar to the traditional Operation Permit showing the final system installation. Needed for certificate of occupancy.

Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator (AOWE) Permit Option:

[Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator](#) designation is provided for any individual who is licensed as a soil scientist (LSS) pursuant to Chapter 89F of the General Statutes and further certified under conditions developed and administered by the North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board. The LSS can prepare signed and sealed soil and site evaluations, specifications, plans, and reports for the site layout, construction, operation, and maintenance of a wastewater system in accordance with G.S. 130A-336.2. An Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator shall not perform any of the functions performed by a professional engineer for engineered wastewater systems described in G.S. 130A-336.1.

AOWE Permits:

- Notice of Intent to Construct (NOI) – similar to the combination of the traditional Improvement Permit and Construction Authorization. Required for building permits.
- Authorization to Operate (ATO) – similar to the traditional Operation Permit showing the final system installation. Needed for certificate of occupancy.

Hybrid Permit Option:

[General Statute 130A-335\(a2\)-\(a9\)](#) allows for a hybrid permitting model that resembles traditional permitting. However, this model allows a LSS, an AOWE, a professional engineer, or a local health department to conduct the necessary work needed to permit a septic system. In all cases under this model, the local health department is responsible for issuing the appropriate permits. For example, a LSS could conduct the soil work necessary to issue the Improvement Permit, and the local health department could conduct the design work necessary to issue a Construction Authorization.

Hybrid Permits:

- Improvement Permit – shows area for proposed septic system.
- Construction Authorization - required for building permits.
- Operation Permit - needed for certificate of occupancy.

