Sand Filter Vault (Below Ground/Enclosed)

A sand filter vault is similar to an open sand filter except that the sand layer and underdrains are installed below ground in a vault. It consists of presettling and sand filtration cells and functions by filtering stormwater runoff through a sand bed. Treated runoff is collected in the underdrain system and routed to a detention/retention facility or a downstream conveyance system.

Facility objects that are typically associated with a below ground sand filter include:

- access road or easement
- fence, gate, and water quality sign
- conveyance stormwater pipe



Key Operations and Maintenance Considerations

- Sand filter vaults are enclosed spaces where harmful chemicals and vapors can accumulate. Therefore, the inspection and maintenance of these facilities should be conducted by an individual trained and certified to work in hazardous confined spaces.
- Sand replacement frequency is not well established and will depend on suspended solids levels entering the filter (the effectiveness of the pretreatment BMP can be a significant factor).
- A sand filter should empty in 24 hours following a storm event (24 hours for the presettling chamber), depending on pond depth. If the hydraulic conductivity drops to one (1) inch per hour corrective action is needed, e.g.:
 - Scraping the top layer of fine-grain sediment accumulation (mid-winter scraping is suggested)
 - Aerating the filter surface
 - Replacing the top 4 inches of sand
 - o Inspecting geotextiles for clogging
- Rapid drawdown in the sand bed (greater than 12 inches per hour) indicates short-circuiting of the filter. Inspect the cleanouts on the underdrain pipes and along the base of the embankment for leakage.
- Drawdown tests for the sand bed could be conducted, as needed, during the wet season. These tests can be conducted by allowing the filter to fill (or partially fill) during a storm event, then measuring the decline in water level over a 4 to 8 hour period. An inlet and an underdrain outlet valve would be necessary to conduct such a test.

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Drainage System	Potential	Conditions When Maintenance Is	Minimum Performance Standard		
Feature	Defect	Needed			
Note: table spans multiple pag					
Below Ground Sand Filter Vault	Sediment Accumulation on Sand Media Section	Sediment depth exceeds 1/2 inch.	No sediment deposits on sand filter section that which would impede permeability of the filter section.		
	Sediment Accumulation in Presettling Portion of Vault	Sediment accumulation in vault bottom exceeds the depth of the sediment zone plus 6-inches.	No sediment deposits in first chamber of vault.		
	Trash/Debris Accumulation	Trash and debris accumulated in vault, or pipe inlet/outlet, floatables and non-floatables.	Trash and debris have been removed from vault and inlet/outlet piping.		
	Sediment in Drain	When drain pipes, cleanouts become full with sediment and/or debris.	Sediment and debris have been removed.		

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Drainage System Feature	Potential Defect	Conditions When Maintenance Is Needed	Minimum Performance Standard		
Note: table spans multiple p					
	Pipes/Cleanouts				
	Short Circuiting	When seepage/flow occurs along the vault walls and corners. Sand eroding near inflow area.	Sand filter media section re-laid and compacted along perimeter of vault to form a semi-seal. Erosion protection added to dissipate force of incoming flow and curtail erosion.		
	Damaged Pipes	Inlet or outlet piping damaged or broken and in need of repair.	Pipe repaired and/or replaced.		
	Access Cover Damaged/Not Working	Cover cannot be opened, corrosion/deformation of cover. Maintenance person cannot remove cover using normal lifting pressure.	Cover repaired to proper working function or replaced.		
	Ventilation Blocked	Ventilation area blocked or plugged.	Blocking material removed or cleared from ventilation area. A specified % of the vault surface area must provide ventilation to the vault interior (see design specifications).		
	Vault Structure Damaged; Includes Cracks in Walls, Bottom, Damage to Frame and/or Top Slab.	Cracks wider than 1/2 inch or evidence of soil particles entering the structure through the cracks, or maintenance/inspection personnel determine that the vault is not structurally sound.	Vault replaced or repairs made so that vault meets design specifications and is structurally sound.		
		Cracks wider than 1/2 inch at the joint of any inlet/outlet pipe or evidence of soil particles entering through the cracks.	Vault repaired so that no cracks exist wider than 1/4-inch at the joint of the inlet/outlet pipe.		
	Defects in Baffles/ Internal Walls	Baffles or walls corroding, cracking, warping and/or showing signs of failure as determined by maintenance/inspection person.	Baffles repaired or replaced to design specifications.		
	Access Ladder Damaged	Ladder is corroded or deteriorated, not functioning properly, not securely attached to structure wall, missing rungs, cracks, and misaligned.	Ladder replaced or repaired to design specifications, and is safe to use as determined by inspection personnel.		