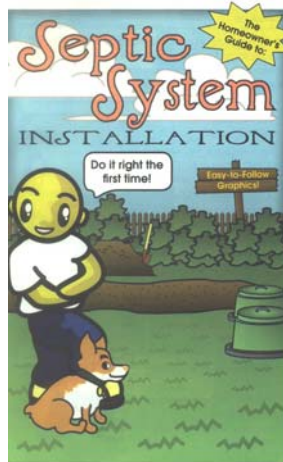


Septic System Installation Comic Book



<p><i>Background/Need for Project:</i></p>	<p>Many homeowners throughout the Southwest border region attempt to install their own septic tank and soil treatment area with limited skills or expertise. Although numerous do-it-yourself teaching materials are available, many residents have limited English language skills. Others are even poorly literate in Spanish. As a result, even permitted systems are frequently installed with design deficiencies that present groundwater risks</p>
<p><i>Location:</i></p>	<p>University of New Mexico</p>
<p><i>People involved:</i></p>	<p>Craig Runyan and Dr. Adrian Hansen, New Mexico State University; Dr. Bruce Lesikar, Texas A&M University; Kitt Farrell-Poe, University of Arizona in Yuma</p>
<p><i>Started/ Expected end date:</i></p>	<p>2003 – 2004</p>
<p><i>Brief project description:</i></p>	<p><i>Project approach:</i> The project adapted appropriate existing materials to develop detailed guidelines to owner-installed septic systems. The format was a conventional comic book style, with cartoon characters illustrating a step-by-step procedure for properly designing and installing the system. English and Spanish versions of the comic book were printed.</p> <p><i>Project activities to date:</i> The comic book was printed in both Spanish and English versions and 2500 copies of each were printed and distributed to New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.</p> <p><i>Project funding:</i> The project was funded through a grant with the Southern Regional Water Quality Coordination program.</p>
<p><i>Outcomes:</i></p>	<p>Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas have an easy to read, easy to understand guide to installing conventional septic systems.</p>