

SWS Variance Request Form
(complete one form for each request)

Proposed State Standard	The [REDACTED] State Specifications will state: Ground moisture barrier must be fastened to ground with durable fasteners or ballast(s) if exposed to wind effects or the ground slope will cause movement of the ground moisture barrier. (SWS 2.0403.1e).
Relevant SWS(s)	<i>Ground moisture barrier will be fastened to ground with durable fasteners or ballast(s)</i>
Objective of Relevant SWS	<i>Prevent movement of the ground moisture barrier</i>
Difference between Proposed and SWS Language	The SWS requires that all ground moisture barrier material be secured to the ground with mechanical fasteners or ballasts. [REDACTED] will require ground moisture barrier material to be secured or ballasted only when necessary due to wind exposure or sloped ground.
Specific Conditions Where Variance will Apply	Crawl spaces under all housing types.
Reasoning/Justification (Include supporting technical materials as appropriate)	Securing ground cover is not necessary in most cases and in our climate, may create moisture issues. The vast majority of crawlspaces in [REDACTED] are flat and not exposed to wind. In western [REDACTED], seasonal ground water is a problem at times of heavy rainfall. When ground cover is installed and not secured, the ground cover will rise with the water level due to the water's surface tension. This keeps the majority of water beneath the ground cover. If ground cover is secured, the seasonal ground water will be forced to the top side of the ground cover and will not easily be drain. The only option when the water makes it to the top of the ground cover is evaporation. Thus causing the potential for moisture issues.

DOE Review Notes:

Required Signatures:



Grantee Representative submitting request



Date

DOE Technical Approval

Date

Variance Request Instructions

Proposed State Standard - Include specific standards language and references where available.

Relevant SWS(s) - Link to relevant SWS; indicate specific row where appropriate.

Objective of Relevant SWS - Copy text from relevant SWS(s).

Difference between Proposed and SWS Language - Describe difference between proposed standard and SWS.

Specific Conditions Where Variance will Apply - Describe situations where variance would apply, e.g., specific housing types, building details, or circumstances.

Reasoning/Justification (*Include supporting technical materials as appropriate*) - Explain reasoning for requesting the variance, and how Grantee will ensure the desired outcome and objectives of the SWS will still be met.

Sample Completed Table

Proposed State Standard	The (State) WAP Field Standards shall require under-floor grade will be cleared of all vegetation and organic material. Debris that can cause injury or puncture ground covers (e.g., nails, glass, sheet metal screws, etc.) will be removed from the crawl space. Care will be taken to prevent punctures during installation.
Relevant SWS(s)	https://sws.nrel.gov/spec/201113 row a

Objective of Relevant SWS	<p>Minimize punctures in ground liner</p> <p>Minimize habitat for pests (Integrated Pest Management—IPM) and contaminant sources</p>
Difference between Proposed and SWS Language	<p>SWS requires removal of debris greater than 1". We may leave larger debris, but only if there is no danger of such debris puncturing ground liner.</p>
Specific Conditions Where Variance will Apply	<p>Crawl spaces under all housing types</p>
Reasoning/Justification (Include supporting technical materials as appropriate)	<p>Raking the entire crawl space is often time-consuming, difficult, and brings little reward, i.e., if there is no danger of punctures in ground cover to be installed. Would rather invest that time into proper installation and/or other important measures. The intent of the SWS will be met by making sure puncture hazards are removed and ground cover is puncture free at time of final inspection.</p>