



ESSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY NEWSLETTER II

ESSEX COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE
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Septic System Funding Possible for Essex County Homeowners

Essex County's state funded study of sewage problems and possible solutions is now getting to the interesting stage. It's not yet completed, but final results will help local residents decide whether their community should take advantage of a new federal program that provides 75 to 85 percent of the cost of repairing or replacing septic systems that no longer work properly.

Started in May 1980, the one-year study is being conducted by the Essex County Planning Office with help from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the consulting firm of Cahn Engineers Inc. This second newsletter reports our findings so far and points out some alternatives that residents will want to know about before decisions in Essex County are made. As part of the study, over 1400 homes were visited throughout the County last summer, and homeowners were asked questions on the condition and operation of their septic disposal systems. As expected, some of those surveyed had no problems with their septic system. However, roughly 70% did report an actual problem or were found to have a potential problem with their system, many of which would qualify for 75 to 85 percent federal aid. The number of problems or potential problems were different for each area reflecting a variety of

local conditions such as depth to bedrock, hardpan, clay soils and small lot sizes.

After the engineers tabulated the results of the survey, the Essex County Planning Office held public information meetings in ten towns with the most severe problems. At those meetings, the results of the survey were discussed as well as how residents felt about the problem and whether there was a willingness to improve the conditions. The efforts of this program are directed toward solving local water pollution and potential health problems in order to make our communities a pleasure to live in as well as attractive to visit. The federal government has finally realized that rural areas such as ours, require quite different approaches to water quality problems than those used in urban areas.

For the Essex County Wastewater Management Study to help your community, your ideas and suggestions are needed. The following pages summarize the results of the engineers' study on solutions which might be considered for your area. The future progress of this study must be tailored to your ideas. Therefore, we will be having another public meeting in your town to discuss possible solutions and future action. Please refer to the enclosed notice or watch your local newspaper for announcements of the upcoming meeting in your area.

350

Extent of Septic System Problems In Essex County Communities

Town/Community	Degree of Failing Septic Systems	Cluster and/or Individual Solution
<u>Chesterfield</u>		
Port Kent	Limited	Individual Systems
Port Douglas	Limited	Individual Systems
Corlear Bay Club	Limited	Individual Systems
Augur Lake	Substantial	Cluster System
<u>Crown Point</u>		
Crown Point Hamlet	Substantial	Cluster and Individual Systems
Factoryville Road area	Limited	Cluster and Individual System
<u>Elizabethtown</u>		
Village of Elizabethtown	Substantial	Under 201 Study
<u>Essex</u>		
Essex Hamlet	Substantial	Cluster System
Whallonsburg	Substantial	Cluster System
Bouquet	Substantial	Cluster System
Town Wide	Substantial	Individual System
<u>Jay</u>		
Ausable Forks	Substantial	Under 201 Study
Jay	Substantial	Under 201 Study
<u>Keene</u>		
Keene Hamlet	Limited	Individual System
Keene Valley Hamlet	Limited	Individual System
<u>Lewis</u>		
Lewis Hamlet	Limited	Individual System
<u>Minerva</u>		
Minerva Hamlet	Substantial	Individual System
Olmstedville	Limited	Individual System
<u>Moriah</u>		
Moriah Corner	Substantial	Under 201 Study
<u>Newcomb</u>		
Newcomb Hamlet	Substantial	Cluster and Individual Systems
Route 28 N	Substantial	Cluster and Individual Systems
<u>North Elba</u>		
Raybrook Area	Limited	Individual Systems
<u>North Hudson</u>		
North Hudson Hamlet	Limited	Individual System
<u>St. Armand</u>		
Franklin Falls Rd	Limited	Individual System
<u>Schroon</u>		
Lake Shore (west)	Substantial	Individual Systems
Lake Shore (east)	Limited	Individual Systems
Paradox Lake area	Limited	Individual Systems
<u>Ticonderoga</u>		
Chilson Rd	Substantial	Under 201 Study
Baldwin Rd	Limited	Under 201 Study
Street Rd	Limited	Under 201 Study
Eagle Lake	Limited	Under 201 Study
Village of Ticonderoga (unsewered)	Limited	Under 201 Study
<u>Westport</u>		
Wadhams Hamlet (center)	Substantial	Cluster and Individual System
Wadhams Hamlet (outlying)	Substantial	Individual System
North Shore Area	Substantial	Cluster System
<u>Willsboro</u>		
Willsboro Point	Substantial	Under 201 Study
Willsboro Bay	Substantial	Under 201 Study
Long Pond	Limited	Under 201 Study
<u>Wilmington</u>		
Wilmington Hamlet	Substantial	Cluster and Individual Systems

351

13. How would the district obtain funds?

Property owners in the district who benefit from the program would be required to pay the district an annual user charge. In addition, it may be possible for the district to obtain a loan and/or grant from the Federal Farmers Home Administration to cover the non-federal share of the construction cost.

14. Would everyone in the district be assessed a user charge whether or not he participated in the program?

No. Only those who benefit would be required to pay and the amount they would have to pay would be in proportion to benefit received. Generally only those whose systems are repaired or replaced with Federal Aid would be assessed a user charge. Those whose systems are not repaired or replaced could be assessed a nominal amount. The district would decide.

15. Would building codes or zoning ordinances be required as a condition for obtaining the Federal Aid?

No. But a local ordinance would be required detailing the requirements listed under question 10, above.

PUBLIC MEETING! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The purpose of the upcoming public meeting in your town is to tell you the results of the engineering study. Representatives from Cahn Engineers, Inc., will be at the meeting to discuss the solutions they think will correct septic disposal problems in your area. Your ideas and suggestions are needed to help make decisions concerning your community. The following table shows the date and time when we will meet in your town.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS			
TOWN	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Chesterfield	3/30	7:00 PM	Town Hall
Crown Point	3/23	8:00 PM	Town Hall
Essex	3/18	7:30 PM	Town Hall
Keene	3/24	7:30 PM	Town Hall
Lewis	3/20	7:00 PM	Town Hall
Minerva	3/26	7:00 PM	Town Hall
Newcomb	3/27	7:00 PM	Fire Hall
Schroon	3/19	7:30 PM	Town Hall
Westport	3/31	7:30 PM	Town Hall (WADA)
Wilmington	3/25	7:30 PM	Town Hall

Questions? Comments!

If you have any questions about the Essex County Wastewater Management Study or if you would like to comment on the progress of the study, feel free to call or write Vic Putman at the Essex County Planning Office, Church Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932 (518) 873-6301 Ext. 369.



Minerva Baptist Church



Wilmington

352

