

A Perspective on Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

An essential element of smart growth

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Why Now?

- Growing rural/suburban population
- Increasing number of new systems
- Desire to develop marginal lots (economic)
- Legacy systems
- Unfortunate reliance on zoning to protect Water Resources
- PH & EQ problems could get worse
- Potential to fully address community needs

IMPACT OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT

- Approximately 25% of all US households use onsite treatment
- Approximately 33% of all new house construction utilizes onsite treatment
 - Approximately 1.5 million New York households are served individual onsite systems (about 26%)
 - More than 90% of all onsite systems are “Traditional” Septi Systems



Water Quality Impacts

- Failing onsite systems are a major source of water quality impairments in NYS
 - Waterbody Inventory/PWL
 - Section 303d List

Solutions Can Serve Community Goals

- Appropriate for growth pattern
- A mix of options available
- Technology and management provides flexibility

(Read the Winter 2006 Small Flows Journal)

The Cost of Clean Water

- Wastewater Grants are history
- Needs far exceed resources
- Onsites may be part of the solution

Water Program Initiatives

- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Workgroup
- Onsite Training Network
- Funding

Sources of Funds

- State Revolving Fund
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
- WQCC Mini-Grants

Funding

- Clean Water SRF – Eligible Projects
 - Decentralized wastewater systems, including costs for new or replacement septic systems, septage trucks
 - Septage handling facilities

Funding

- Water Quality Improvement Projects - EPF
 - Eligible Projects
 - Implementation of a municipal management program that provides for system inspections, maintenance, upgrade or replacement
 - Demo projects

Funding

- Mini-Grants
 - County Water Quality Coordinating Committees
 - Inspection of onsite systems in impaired waterbodies
 - Typically \$15,000

Project & Funding Considerations

- EPF & CWSRF
 - No formal policy position pro or con on EPA Guidance
 - Owner selects most cost-effective and socially acceptable alternative
 - Engineering Report is key element
 - Management structure must ensure O&M
 - Link to community development goals

Progress

- Onsite Training Program
- Coastal NPS Program Inspection Strategy
- Funding for Mini-Grants for inspection
- Funding for Illicit Discharge Local Laws
- Funding for Onsite inspection local laws
- Funding of Decentralized management programs
- NYS Co-Funding Initiative
- New Local Initiatives

Barriers

- Onsite legislation unlikely
- No incentives for professionals
- System is slow to adopt change
- Competition for funding resources



NEW YORK ONSITE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

TRAINING NETWORK

Who Should Attend?

Onsite wastewater system professionals:

- Contractors, Code Enforcement Officers
- Planning & Health Officials
- Inspectors and Installers
- Maintenance Technicians
- Septic Tank Pumpers
- Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Architects

Why?

- Programs meet [NYSDEC](#) and [NYSDOS](#) certification renewal training requirements
- Approved by State Education Dept. for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors & Architects continuing education credits.
- Training provides basic and advanced industry information
- Includes options for alternative onsite treatment system technologies

OTN TRAINING RAISES THE BAR



- Courses developed and led by industry professionals
- Training:
 - **Increases confidence**
 - **Qualifies participants**
 - **Raises professional bar**
 - **Results in quality work**
 - **Improves services**
 - **Reduces environmental risk**

EARN CONTINUING EDUCATION

Train to keep
New York waters pure.

New York Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network

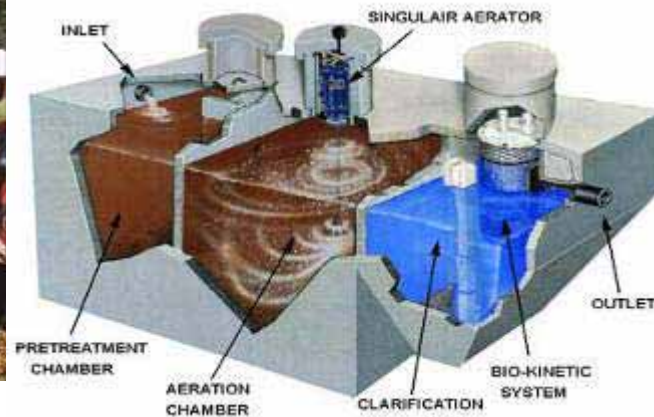
Delhi
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

www.wastewater.delhi.edu
800-96-DELHI

Course Offerings:

- **Foundations of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**
- **Soil Analysis for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**
- **Inspections of Existing Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems**
- **Installation of Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

Technology Options for Sensitive Sites



NY Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network

www.wastewater.delhi.edu

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