

Summary of Comments from Wastewater Management Made Easy

Session 2: Create Consistent Forms, Reports & Procedures November 30, 2007

Ordinance Discussion:

Define "high-strength" waste.

Why should towns require, if DEM already requires; this brings up issues of enforcement.

Data Corrections:

Would DEM be willing to update their own data once towns correct it?

They have asked for data corrections by fax on letterhead, but it seems more efficient to share the digital file.

O&M Agreement Discussion:

Town Clerk will not usually give the plat/lot info; they need that to search for property info. (Tim Cranston)

Keep in mind that there are added costs to each additional piece of info requested by the Town, and service providers pass that cost along to clients. (Bob Johnson)

Initial service contracts are recorded, but subsequent contracts might not be, which means property transfers might not be aware of the system's maintenance needs. The towns need more public outreach. (Tim Stastinuas)

Should there be a point-of-sale inspection required at the state level? (Stephen McCandless)

Isn't RIWIS the database that allows for "flagging" property transfers? (Carl Rosen)

What is the most efficient amount of data that should be collected, considered service providers time and effort? What info does the town REALLY want? (Bob Johnson)

Need to track inspections, not maintenance contracts, because some service providers might not have "official" contracts, but the systems are still maintained. (Bob Johnson)

Provide all zip codes to service providers; don't assume they know all townships.

North Kingstown service providers favor the South Kingstown form.

Consensus Regarding Reports:

Only ask for:

- Date
- Pass/Fail
- If fail, comments with required actions

Use the standard form, but offer more details as optional.

If you're using a paper form in the field, how would that work, in terms of getting it into RIWIS?

Enforcement Discussion:

DEM only has authority if the service provider is a licensed designer.

Should towns require a designer/installer license to do O&M in order to utilize DEM for enforcement? (Bob Johnson)

It's complicated to deny a service provider the right to do business in a town. (Justin Jobin)

DEM enters permits into FoxPro. Deb suggested running a monthly check on cancelled/non-renewed contracts, then sending a letter. (However, the discussion about using inspections rather than contracts now makes this somewhat more of a moot point.) Due to state cutbacks, her idea is unlikely to happen.

Alternative: Towns send NOVs to DEM, and she can send a letter. However, this only will catch residents in towns with programs.

Need a monetary penalty to be enforced by the town.

NEMO could do more outreach at the Town Council level to promote the wastewater programs, even towns that already have them, in order to facilitate enforcement. (Tim Cranston)

Tasks for Participants:

Review:

- Inspector application (and add current contact info)
- List of inspectors
- Component reports

Recap comments about what requirements should be in place for inspectors