



May 19, 2014

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

Pamela L. Young, Ph. D.
Acting Chief, NYC Watershed Section
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Water Supply Protection
Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12237

Paul V. Rush, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Water Supply
prush@dep.nyc.gov

Re: Septic System Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program for the West Branch and Boyd Corners Reservoir Basins

465 Columbus Avenue
Valhalla, NY 10595
T: (845) 340-7800
F: (845) 334-7175

Dear Dr. Young:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has received your comment letter on the above-referenced program dated May 6, 2014. DEP's responses are as follows:

Comment #1: Language regarding what septic systems will be eligible for the program should correspond with the agreed-upon language used in the Revised 2007 FAD – i.e. septic systems that are “reasonably likely-to-fail in the near future”. You may consider including the clarification “as judged by a qualified inspector”.

Response: DEP acknowledges the agreed upon language. The forthcoming Program Rules will reflect this language and will define eligible systems as those that are in failure or reasonably likely-to-fail in the near future as determined by a qualified inspector.

Comment #2: The proposal implies that participation materials will only be supplied to those who have a failing septic system. Please clarify that materials will be available to anyone who might be interested in more information on the program.

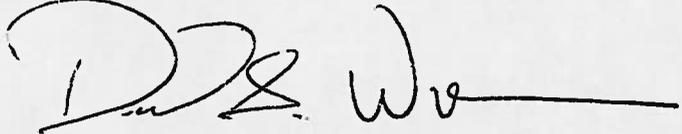
Response: Agreed. Information about the Program is included in the mailing to all residents in the area to be served. Residents who want more information about the Program or who have questions about the Program can contact EFC. The term “participation materials” in the proposal document referred to those specific sign-up materials provided to residents who have agreed to participate. Program materials will be available to anyone who might be interested in more information on the program.

Comment #3: On page 2, first paragraph, how is “financial hardship” defined?

Response: In the forthcoming Program Rules, DEP intends to define financial hardship as those households with 1) an annual income of 200% or less of the poverty guidelines as updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and 2) an assessed home value below the median value in the municipality.

Please contact me at (914) 742-2099 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Warne", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David S. Warne
Assistant Commissioner

c: R. Sokol
T. Boepple
J. Hyde
P. Palmer
P. Sweeney, US EPA
T. Snow, NYSDEC
J. Graf, DEP
M. Meyer, DEP