Framing sewage infrastructure issues

DEEP

Framing the Issues

- Current DEEP and DPH jurisdiction
- What is needed to create an effective regulatory framework for Alternative Treatment Systems (ATS)?
 - Study of other state and county programs
- Potential for a pilot program for ATS and/or testing center similar to RI and Cape Cod
- Municipal infrastructure planning
- Coordination

CURRENT JURISDICTION

DEEP Jurisdiction	DPH Jurisdiction
Conventional systems with design flows greater than 7,500 gallons per day, including sites where multiple smaller systems on a single "lot" with a cumulative flow greater than 7,500 gallons per day.	Local Health Department issues permits for sites with design flow of 7,500 gallons per day or less except for community sewerage systems.
Community Sewerage Systems, regardless of design flows A "community sewerage system" is defined as "any sewerage system serving two or more residences in separate structures which is not connected to a municipal sewerage system or which is connected to a municipal sewerage system as a distinct and separately managed district or segment of such system, but does not include any sewerage system serving only a principal dwelling unit and an accessory apartment, as defined by Connecticut General Statutes section 8-1a, as amended, located on the same lot" (C.G.S. § 7-245 (3))	Plans for septic systems with design flows ranging from 2,000 gallons per day to 7,500 gallons per day must be approved by Connecticut Department of Public Health, but the permit is issued by the Local Health Department
Systems utilizing Alternative Treatment, regardless of design flow	Pursuant to Sec, 19a-35a of the CGS, systems utilizing Alternative Treatment with designs flows of 5,000 gpd and less, were delegated to DPH, upon developing regulations and within available appropriation (PA 07-231). This was further revised by P.A. 17-146 to include all discharges of less than 7,500 gpd . Since no regulations have been established, jurisdiction remains with DEEP currently
Public and Private Wastewater Treatment Plants and	

Public and Private Wastewater Treatment Plants and Construction of New Sanitary Sewers

How to establish an effective regulatory framework for Alternative Treatment Systems (ATS)

Conduct a study of other state and county sewerage programs with a focus on ATS and the potential resources necessary to conduct the same.

DEEP supports the concept of a study and recommends the following factors be included in such study:

- A consultant should undertake the study
- A compilation of programs developed by different states with a focus on New England states.
- Successful projects and what program elements make them successful.
- Appropriate uses and siting of ATS
- Required resources to make the program successful
 - Staffing resources
 - Capital funding
- State or local legislative changes or ordinances
 Level at which each project is managed (local, county, state)
- Oversight, who is the responsible management entity and what does that entail
 - Required level of operation and maintenance
 - Service provider
 - Cost of service
 - Who pays for service
 - Required monitoring (sampling and reporting) and maintenance
 - Service provider
 - Information tracking
 - ► Compliance activities
 - What kind of enforcement is/was necessary to make the program successful
- Lessons learned

Potential for a pilot program and/or testing center

Potential for a pilot program for ATS and/or a testing and study center (perhaps through UCONN or CASE) much like is available in places like Rhode Island and Cape Cod

Massachusetts Testing Center and Rhode Island testing programs can provide information on new and existing technologies and system performance over time, and in similar weather and hydrogeologic conditions as Connecticut. Such results can and have been used in Connecticut for many years.

ATS(s) can treat wastewater to very low levels of pollutants, if **maintained**, **operated and sited** properly.

It is the opinion of DEEP that there is no need to develop a pilot program and a testing center for the sole purpose of testing technology and systems.

However, if UCONN (or some other entity) is interested in developing a program for education or training opportunities, DEEP would welcome the opportunity to coordinate on such an effort.

Development of municipal plans and infrastructure intersections

- Currently municipal water pollution control authorities only prepare or update water pollution control plans in conjunction with projects seeking Clean Water Funds
 - CGS Sec. 7-246. (b) Each municipal water pollution control authority designated in accordance with this section may prepare and periodically update a water pollution control plan for the municipality. Such plan shall designate and delineate the boundary of: (1) Areas served by any municipal sewerage system; (2) areas where municipal sewerage facilities are planned and the schedule of design and construction anticipated or proposed; (3) areas where sewers are to be avoided; (4) areas served by any community sewerage system not owned by a municipality; (5) areas to be served by any proposed community sewerage system not owned by a municipality; and (6) areas to be designated as decentralized wastewater management districts. Such plan shall also describe the means by which municipal programs are being carried out to avoid community pollution problems and describe any programs wherein the local director of health manages subsurface sewage disposal systems. The authority shall file a copy of the plan and any periodic updates of such plan with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and shall manage or ensure the effective supervision, management, control, operation and maintenance of any community sewerage system or decentralized wastewater management district not owned by a municipality.
- Currently municipal plans of conservation and development include the requirement to identify sewerage system infrastructure
 - CGS sec 8-23 (g) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2015, shall identify the general location and extent of any (1) areas served by existing sewerage systems, (2) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and (3) areas where sewers are to be avoided. In identifying such areas, the commission shall consider the provisions of this section and the priority funding area provisions of chapter 297a.

State Agency coordination

- State agency actions must be consistent with the State Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)
 - Sewer extensions (DEEP)
 - > Water extensions (DPH)

Consider ways to increase municipal and state coordination

- Consider requiring water pollution control authorities to prepare and regularly update water pollution control plans
- Consider adding water systems to the required infrastructure identified in municipal plans of conservation and development
- Consider requiring municipal plans of conservation and development and water pollution control plans to be consistent with the state plan of conservation and development
- State agency actions are required to be consistent with the state POCD consider requiring municipal actions to be consistent as well

