



State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation
Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division
One National Life Drive
Main Building, Second Floor
Montpelier, VT 05602-3521
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ww/wwmd.cfm

Agency of Natural Resources

[phone] 802-585-4884
[fax] 802-828-1541

May 1, 2015

George Loomis
Research and Extension Soil Scientist
Director, New England Onsite Wastewater Training Center
University of Rhode Island
001C Coastal Institute Bldg, NRS Dept.
1 Greenhouse Road
Kingston, RI 02881

Re: Multit-State NE0145 Research Project

Dear George,

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation is very interested in the continuation of the above referenced research project. This project, which is being done through collaboration between URI and the University of Vermont (UVM), focuses on the effects that climate change may have on the design, installation and long term operation of soil-based wastewater systems.

Our State, through the adoption of the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, has specific vertical depths of soil or fill that must be maintained between the bottom of a wastewater system and the seasonal high groundwater table. We normally establish the depth below ground surface of the seasonal high groundwater table through soil identification and redoximorphic features. We also have a method for establishing the seasonal high groundwater table through groundwater monitoring and recording the fluctuations to the water table through the spring of a year. Climate change that results in more snow, springtime rain, and frequency of storms will potentially mean the actual seasonal high groundwater table will become shallower in the soil profile than indicated by redoximorphic features. This will have a direct effect on our wastewater systems.

In closing, we support the continued research being conducted by you and your colleagues at UVM to understand the potential effects of climate change on soil-based wastewater treatment systems and look forward to the projects findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ernest Christianson".

Ernest Christianson
Program Manager

c Christine Thompson, Director

