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## NEWS from the CWC

### **CWC repaired 278 septic systems in 2013**

MARGARETVILLE, January 10, 2014 – The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) funded the repair or replacement of 278 septic systems in the 1600-square-mile Catskill-Delaware (West of Hudson) Watershed in 2013.

Since the program began in 1997, a total of 4,359 systems have been fixed in the West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed, preserving water quality, employing hundreds of engineers, contractors and material suppliers, and saving homeowners thousands of dollars.

The program addresses failed on-site wastewater treatment systems in order to prevent untreated sewerage from contaminating groundwater, streams, ponds and NYC reservoirs by providing homeowners with reimbursement for the cost of compliance with State and Watershed regulations.

The CWC pays 100% of eligible costs for on-site septic system repairs for full-time Watershed residents, and 60% of the costs for non-primary residents. A conventional septic tank and leach field costs about \$7,000; alternative systems that may be required because of site constraints or poor soil conditions can cost more than \$40,000, an expense that would be difficult for the average homeowner to handle.

A separate Septic Maintenance Program has allowed 1,018 systems installed since 1995 to be pumped and inspected, thus extending their useful life. The CWC pays eligible homeowners half the cost of such routine maintenance.

Most participants in the Septic Rehabilitation and Replacement Program are owners of residences or home-based businesses. But a total of 15 commercial properties have also been addressed through the Small Business Septic Program.

### **On-site systems decommissioned**

Another 523 on-site systems in seven hamlets have been decommissioned (pumped out and filled in) or regularly maintained under the CWC's Community Wastewater Management Program (CWMP), which develops treatment facilities and maintenance districts for small population centers. Three more projects addressing 153 homes and businesses are in progress. Five additional hamlets are eligible for community systems in the next five years, meaning that 287 on-site systems may be removed or improved if governing municipalities choose to participate.

Some 1,756 systems were taken off line in six communities that received wastewater systems under the New Infrastructure Program managed directly by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Taken together, CWC and DEP programs have repaired, replaced, maintained or removed 7,809 substandard or malfunctioning septic systems since the New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 1997.

### **Reimbursement available**

At its January 7 meeting, the CWC Board of Directors approved a resolution to reimburse individuals who have repaired or replaced a septic system at their own expense between July 21, 2008 and December 27, 2013 because they were outside the program priority area and thus did not qualify for the program at the time. For information on whether you qualify for reimbursement, call the CWC at 845-586-1400, or visit [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org).

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River.