Town of Uxbridge – Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning

Marc R Drainville, PE, BCEE, LEED AP | GHD

March 24, 2014

Agenda

- History
- Discharge Permit and Consent Order
- Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning (CWMP)
- Consent Order Schedule and Implementation Process
- Public involvement / public participation

History

Date	Event
2010	DPW was notified by EPA* that a new discharge permit** for the wastewater treatment facility would be issued soon
2010/2011	DPW completed an abbreviated evaluation of the existing wastewater treatment facility
July 2011	DPW presented potential permit compliance costs
Dec 2011	DPW initiated a Wastewater Facilities Plan to evaluate existing thirty five year old wastewater infrastructure
June 2012	DPW received a courtesy draft discharge permit for review and Wastewater Facilities Plan was placed on hold

* **EPA** is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who issues the discharge permit along with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or DEP)

A **Permit gives the town permission to discharge treated wastewater to the Blackstone River

History – con't

Date	Event
Sept 2012	A formal draft discharge permit was issued
Oct 2012	Public hearing was held by EPA and DEP to receive comments
Nov 2012	DPW issued comments on the discharge permit setting the stage for the Town to reserve their rights to an appeal
June 2013	EPA issued a discharge permit
August 2013	DPW appeals the permit with the intent to negotiate a settlement that considers some changes to the permit but mainly allows for a schedule to come into compliance*

* Other appeals that have been made locally based on the validity of the treatment limits have failed in court

Discharge Permit and Consent Order

Discharge Permit

- First new permit in ten years (typically given out every 5)
- Defines treatment levels
- Requires the Town to complete a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan – a planning document that allows the Town to determine current and future wastewater related needs (more on this soon)

Consent Order

- Negotiations: September 2013 through March 2014
- Appeal should be dismissed soon
- Goals:
  1. Allow the Town adequate time to come into compliance (> permit cycle)
  2. Minimize interim infrastructure work
- Town has been given a unique opportunity

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning

- Why?
  - You are being required to
  - Existing facilities are operating at 40% capacity based on planning that was done in 1970s
  - Review unsewered parts of Town
- Determines the wastewater needs of the Town as a whole
  - Project wastewater needs such that the existing wastewater facility is sized based on current planning
  - Review unsewered portions of the Town to determine needs
- Builds upon wastewater facilities plan that was placed on hold in June 2012

Consent Order Schedule and Implementation Process

- The Consent Order contains specific milestones including:
  - Date to complete the CWMP
  - Date to complete design of improvements to the wastewater treatment facility
  - Date to complete implementation of modifications to the wastewater treatment facility
- Failure to achieve milestones could result in one or more of the following:
  - Non-compliance orders (monetary fines)
  - EPA could alter conditions of Order
  - Jeopardize funding opportunities

Consent Order Schedule and Implementation Process – con't

The Town has been given a great opportunity to develop a current plan rather than rush into a construction project that accommodates a thirty five year old plan, but milestones in the consent order are hard deadlines

Consent Order Schedule and Implementation Process – con't

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan status

- Began in December 2013
- Plan needs to be in draft form by the end of the year to proceed through one of two DEP review processes before submitting to EPA at the end of 2015
- Data gathering has begun
- Town approval upon completion is critical to maintain compliance with the Consent Order (public involvement and public participation is critical)

Public Involvement / Public Participation

- DPW has reached out to all Town boards, commissions and the general public to solicit volunteers in the CWMP process
- We have formed a CWMP Advisory Group
  - Group consists of active members as well as members we will directly engage if needed
  - Direct engagement may be needed due to consent order time constraints
- We will present updates to Board of Selectmen several times this year
- General public may also follow the process by signing up on the Town web site for “e alerts” under “News & Announcements”

Questions?

www.ghd.com