

September 20, 2011

Ms. Kelly Heffner
Deputy Secretary for Water Management
PO Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Ms. Heffner:

Several potential issues have been brought to the attention of the Citizens Advisory Council's Water Committee, which we would like to discuss with you at your earliest convenience.

- We are told that recent communications and policy direction (and sometimes lack thereof) from DEP relative to alternate on lot sewage systems have led to confusion among SEO's over appropriate approval criteria. Uncertainty about criteria to ensure protective alternatives could lead to preventable delays in permit approvals for housing, a critical sector of our wavering economy. We would like to discuss how DEP communicates policy direction and changes in guidance and criteria to Sewage Enforcement Officers,
- We are also told that DEP is no longer providing funding for classroom training for SEO's. Given the department's continuing budget concerns, this decision is understandable, if unfortunate. We would like more information on what DEP is doing to ensure that required training and continuing education is available and reasonably accessible to SEO's statewide.
- These concerns could have been vetted and broadcast through the Sewage Advisory Committee, but every SAC meeting so far this calendar year has been cancelled. In the interest of providing transparency, and public participation in the department's decision making, we trust that SAC will resume a regular meeting schedule, and provide the services for which it was intended.

Thank you for your attention to these items. We look forward to discussing them with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Thad Stevens
Chair, CAC Water Committee

cc: John Hines
Alyssa Harris