

# FAQ's

## Frequently Asked Questions Tiverton Wastewater Facilities Plan Update

<b>Q</b>	<b><i>Who is the Wastewater Management Commission?</i></b>
A	The WWMC is a chartered commission of the Town of Tiverton. It is currently composed of 7 residents from throughout Tiverton. Members reside in South Tiverton, the Nanaquaket area, and North Tiverton. In support of the Commission is the Wastewater superintendent as well as the DPW Director. The current WWMC consists of two practicing Professional Engineers, a retired professional engineer, a wastewater operator, a Certified Public Accountant, a construction manager and a retired contracts manager.
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>Why are you doing this study when the FTR voted against it?</i></b>
A	First of all, the FTR only voted on what the Budget Committee recommended. The Budget Committee included \$10,000 to create a Request for Proposals (RFP). Why would the Budget Committee allocate \$10,000 if it didn't support going ahead with the study. The budget committee did not take into account the time limitations the State has imposed on the Town. The study must be completed this year to meet State imposed deadlines. The Wastewater Management Commission (WWMC) produced the RFP on its own, thereby saving the \$10,000 and allowing us to utilize it to partially pay for the actual study.
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>We don't want sewers, why are you forcing them on us?</i></b>
A	<p>Sewers aren't the preferred method of treating wastewater for much of the town. However, there are certain sections of town where installing sewers will be a far less expensive option than having everybody install new septic systems.</p> <p>This study will take a good hard look at the north end of town and tell us where sewers are still a feasible alternative. It will also look at the Stone Bridge/Riverside Drive area, which has many properties that have no room even for modern advanced septic systems. It will tell us where sewers are the lower cost option and where septic systems make the most sense.</p>
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>If we have this facilities plan done, will the State force us to install sewers?</i></b>
A	<p>If we don't do this study, we must continue to follow the recommendations of our last Facilities Plan which was completed twelve years ago and is completely out of date. It indicated that the entire North end of town should have sewers installed, period. Until we tell RIDEM otherwise, this is our plan. Even the On-Site program that was passed in 2006 doesn't supersede the Outdated Facilities Plan. RIDEM considers our On-Site program as our plan to regulate those areas not covered by sewers. RIDEM has recently told us to begin to implement our outdated Facilities Plan. The longer we do nothing, the stronger their insistence will be, until they eventually fine us like they did Portsmouth.</p> <p>This study will take into account the advanced technologies of modern septic systems, and the escalating costs of installing sewers, it will document which areas in town are most critical and need to be serviced by sewers now, which areas can wait for better economic times and which areas should continue using septic systems. It will document those areas where sewers are feasible alternatives. If the State accepts our updated Wastewater Facilities Plan, it will not force us to install sewers where we have documented that they are</p>

	not the preferred method of wastewater treatment.
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>Has the State put the Town on notice that many cesspools are not in compliance?</i></b>
A	<p>No. In 2010, the State did a study of Mt. Hope Bay and determined that the drainage system is discharging elevated levels of bacteria. Here's a direct quote from the State's Report:</p> <p><i>"The 2000 Tiverton Facilities Plan approved by RIDEM proposes sewerage the entire North Tiverton area. The Town must commit to a schedule to commence the design and construction of sewers for these problem areas."</i></p> <p>This is what was referred to as "the State putting us on Notice". Our inspection program has identified some failed systems, but not all cesspools are failing the mandatory inspections. As a matter of fact, the majority of cesspools that have been inspected have met the requirements for a functioning cesspool.</p>
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>How does the State's Cesspool Phase Out law affect us?</i></b>
A	<p>The State's Cesspool Phase-Out law requires all properties within 200 feet of the shoreline that rely on cesspools for wastewater disposal to replace their cesspools with a conforming septic system by January 1, 2014. Commercial properties must replace their cesspools by January 1, 2013. The properties along Main road from the Nanaquaket Bridge to the north end of Riverside Drive are the most affected area in town. The cost of septic systems for many property owners in this area will be excessive; these properties will have to meet both RIDEM and CRMC requirements to site new septic systems. This neighborhood is close to our interceptor making it a prime candidate for installing a sewer line to service those properties along the shoreline. Our current Facilities Plan does not address this area and therefore we will not be able to use any grants or the low interest State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to fund any project in this area.</p>
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>I live in an area of town that will never receive sewer service. I have to pay to maintain my own septic system; I don't want to pay for other people to maintain their septic system.</i></b>
A	<p>A big part of this study is going to be finances. The study will identify what the costs will be to install sewers in recommended areas and will identify grants and low interest loans available to finance the construction. All cost breakdowns will assume that ONLY THOSE WHO WILL BE SERVICED BY SEWERS WILL SHARE THE COST OF THE SEWER CONSTRUCTION.</p>
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>I live in an area that is planned for sewers, but I just upgraded my septic system. I don't want to tie in.</i></b>
A	<p>We have an existing program which will be extended and expanded once we begin installing sewers. If you just spent the money to do the right thing and fixed a failed septic system, we will give you relief from the one year mandatory tie-in requirement. At this time we have not determined the extent of the relief, this will be one of the items that the study will work on.</p>
<b>Q</b>	<b><i>What is the cost of the Facilities Plan, and how will it be financed.</i></b>
A	<p>The cost of the study will be \$58,500. It will be financed partly through the \$10,000 that the Budget Committee included in the approved FTR and through a loan from the State Revolving Loan fund. The part of the project which will be financed by the SRF loan will have to be paid back in 3 yearly payments. We will not start paying it back until FY 2014.</p>