

Town of Londonderry, Vermont

100 Old School Street
South Londonderry, VT 05155
802-824-3356
www.londonderryvt.org

February 25, 2020

RE: Londonderry Community Wastewater Study Questionnaire

Dear Londonderry property owner,

The Town of Londonderry has hired Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers to complete a study to identify if there are existing problems with wastewater disposal in the North and South Villages that could potentially be improved by constructing community wastewater system(s). Enclosed is a questionnaire regarding the existing conditions for water supply and wastewater disposal on your property. You are receiving this questionnaire because you live within the study area identified by the committee. Please complete the survey(s) and return it to Dufresne Group in the envelope provided by **March 20, 2020**.

Also enclosed is a letter from the Vermont Department of Health that explains the free water test that is available. Please note that if you check the "yes" box, it does not guarantee that you will receive a free water test. We will review all interested properties and select those that provide the best representative sample of the villages. Additional information on the water testing is available on the Town's website or at the Town Office.

If you need assistance in completing the survey or have questions about what information is being requested, please contact Chrissy Haskins at Dufresne Group at 802-768-8291 or chaskins@dufresnegroup.com. All information will be processed by Dufresne Group with only well and septic types, locations and permit status shown on publicly available documents. Other information will only be available outside of Dufresne Group as a general description of trends, for example only the number of failed septic systems will be included in the publicly available documents, not the location or owner. It is however, extremely important to know of systems that may be experience or have experienced failure (even if since replaced) as this can increase the amount of grant funding available should the community choose to move forward with a project identified in this study.

- If you need a survey with a larger font or boxes, these are available at the Town Office.
- If you do not know an answer to a question, please just skip it and/or ask for assistance. Some questions you may not be able to answer.
- If you would prefer to have someone meet with you to assist in completing the survey, contact Chrissy Haskins and she will coordinate with committee members to have someone meet with you.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey. The goal of this study is to determine if there is a need for community wastewater systems in the Villages and what a system might cost. The information gathered from this survey will help in this determination. The Town has not committed to doing anything beyond this study at this time. Results of the study will be available at future public meetings.

Sincerely,



Shane O'Keefe
Town Administrator



Sharon Crossman
Chair, Planning Commission

**Property Owner Questionnaire, Wastewater Study, Londonderry, VT
Wastewater Disposal Information:**

Type of WW Disposal System:	<input type="checkbox"/> Leach Field (Standard In-Ground) <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Well <input type="checkbox"/> Mound <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Volume of Septic Tank (if known):		Year Septic Installed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Before 1960 <input type="checkbox"/> 1960-1979 <input type="checkbox"/> 1980-1999 <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-2018 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
Is your wastewater system shared with another property or building?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure If yes, provide address:		
How long since the last septic tank pumping?	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	Reason	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolve Problem <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Do you use a garbage disposal?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Use <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Use	Do you dispose of solid waste in the drain? (i.e. baby wipe, flushable wipe, food, kitty litter, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently
Do you pour grease, oil, solvents or other chemicals down the drain?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently		
Have you had any problems with your septic since owning the property?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know If yes, please explain:		
Is your system exhibiting any signs of problems? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Basement Backup <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage on ground surface <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Wetness <input type="checkbox"/> Sink Holes <input type="checkbox"/> Slow Drains <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Do you have a wastewater permit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Permit #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know		

General Info:

Other Comments or Questions:	
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Please provide a sketch of your property. Show approximate location of building, road, driveway, parking, well/spring, septic (tank and field), and stream/river/pond/wetland. Include approximate dimensions from well to septic tank and from well to septic field (if possible).



Agency of Human Services

Department of Health

Environmental Health

108 Cherry Street – PO Box 70

Burlington, VT 05402-0070

HealthVermont.gov

[toll free] 800-439-8550

Dear Village Resident:

The Vermont Department of Health is offering free drinking water test kits to private well owners in your village. This offer is provided through the Vermont Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative, which assists villages without community wastewater systems.

In Vermont, 55% of households rely on septic systems and over 200 villages do not have sewer systems. This can affect a village's economic development, public health and environmental benefits. To overcome this challenge, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and initiative partners are looking to help identify cost-effective water and wastewater solutions for your village.

As part of the overall initiative, it is important to understand local drinking water quality. Drinking water in villages served by private wells can be susceptible to contamination from historic land use and development. If a septic system is located close to a drinking water well, the water quality could be compromised. Other sources of contamination could be related to bedrock geology, which means the contaminants are naturally occurring.

To determine whether nearby septic systems or other naturally occurring contaminants are affecting your well, the Health Department is offering you a **free** drinking water test kit. This test kit normally costs \$159.

The drinking water test kit include tests for:

1. Bacteria (total coliform/*E. coli*)
2. Inorganic chemicals (arsenic, chloride, copper, fluoride, hardness, iron, lead, manganese, nitrate, nitrite, sodium and uranium)
3. Gross alpha radiation

Testing is the only way of knowing whether contaminants are in your drinking water and if they are affecting the village as a whole. The results will help inform you of your drinking water quality, help identify your village's needs, and help inform state policy and rulemaking to support solutions for community wastewater issues.

We will be sampling water in your village on _____.
We will get in touch with you by phone or email to schedule a time to sample your water, should you choose to participate.





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We have enclosed a survey to better understand the drinking water test results and to compare the test results with other villages. Please have the completed survey ready by the time you have your water sampled.

Some contaminant levels can vary throughout the year. The Health Department will only provide one test kit, but you may want to plan on testing your well on a regular basis. The Health Department recommends that you test for bacteria once a year, and for inorganic chemicals and gross alpha once every five years to make sure your drinking water is safe.

DEC and the Health Department have partnered with Mark Johnson of RCAP Solutions, one of the nonprofit organizations that make up the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). Mark will be doing the sampling. He will contact you and other villagers who return the survey to schedule a date and time to do the sampling. The sampling will be done in one or two days, so it may not be possible for everyone to participate.

Please note that test results analyzed through any Vermont-certified laboratory are considered public record.

If you have any questions, please call Sille Larsen, Water Resources Engineer with Health Department Private Drinking Water Program, at 802-863-7233.

You can find more information about the Vermont Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative, here: villagewastewatersolutions.vermont.gov

For more information about wells and drinking water, visit: healthvermont.gov/water.

