



## Kensico Septic System Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program Determining Eligibility

The primary focus of the Kensico Septic System Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program (Septic Program) consists of Remediation and Repair of failing septic systems, or Connection of those systems to an existing sewage collection system. The information below summarizes the process for determining if a system is eligible to participate in the Septic Program.

### What are the basic criteria for determining eligibility?

- The property must be located in New York State and within the Kensico Reservoir drainage basin. Program staff can assist you in determining if you are in the Kensico Reservoir drainage basin.
- Only existing single family or two family residences constructed on or before May 1, 1997 are eligible.
- The system must have an existing design sewage flow of less than 1,000 gallons per day per family. In most cases, the design sewage flow will be estimated using the Westchester County Health Department (WCHD) design basis of 200 gallons per day per bedroom. Program staff can assist you in determining if you meet this criterion.
- The system must be determined to be in Failure by a Qualified Inspector.

### What does Failure mean?

- “Failure” is defined as evidence of sewage effluent on the ground surface or in a storm sewer, watercourse, stream, wetland, or other surface water body, or other obvious failure of a system component (e.g. collapse of the septic tank) in the judgment of a Qualified Inspector.

### Who is a Qualified Inspector?

- Under the Septic Program, only staff from either the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) or WCHD can determine if a system is in Failure.

### What are the steps for determining if my system is Failing?

- Any Property Owner that has received a Notice of Violation (NOV) from WCHD on or after November 30, 2008 and meets all other basic eligibility criteria listed above will be deemed in Failure and therefore eligible to participate in the Septic Program.
- If WCHD or NYCDEP staff have not previously visited the site and/or an NOV has not been previously issued, the Property Owner will be required to hire a private, WCHD-licensed septic contractor to pump out and inspect the system. ***NYCDEP staff must be notified and have the opportunity to be present at this inspection, so be sure to contact Septic Program staff at 914-773-4460 prior to the inspection.***

### What happens during the initial pump out and evaluation?

- During the pump out and evaluation of your system, all or some of the following may occur: 1) examination of internal and external plumbing configurations and connections, 2) recording of the general layout of the septic system components, 3) assessment of external site features, including observations of conditions that may indicate septic problems, 4) pumping out and inspecting of the interior of the septic tank, and 5) a dye test, if needed, which involves the introduction of tracer dye into the plumbing system, and may require one or more brief revisits by the inspector to check for dye on the property.

### Will I be reimbursed for the initial pump out and evaluation?

- If the initial pump out and evaluation does not indicate Failure conditions, then the Property Owner will be responsible for the full cost of the initial pump out and evaluation.
- If the initial pump out and evaluation indicates a Failure condition and results in a Rehabilitation that exceeds the Septic Program minimum reimbursement amount, the Property Owner will be able to submit the costs associated with the initial pump out and evaluation with their reimbursement application.

### **Need More Information?**

- Go to our Website at [www.nysefc.org/Kensico](http://www.nysefc.org/Kensico)
- E-mail us at [Kensico@nysefc.org](mailto:Kensico@nysefc.org)
- Call **1-800-882-9721** and ask to speak with a Kensico Program representative

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