



Title: Addressing On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems with Management and Education

Name: Deborah Grantham

Email: dg3@cornell.edu

Organization: Cornell University

State: NY **Region:** New York - New Jersey - Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands

Year of Funding:

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: Wastewater from many homes and small businesses in the United States is treated by on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), but environmental impacts may result from poor siting, sizing, operation, and maintenance. Failing OWTS may not be repaired or replaced due to high costs, may become a financial burden for the landowner, and cause local and down gradient health and environmental problems. Local governments and contractors are key to improved installation and management of OWTS.

Objectives: One focus of the USDA CSREES Regional Water Quality Project in US EPA Region 2 is improving the management of OWTS. The objectives are to: 1) demonstrate local government management of OWTS, including through use of the US EPA Voluntary Guidelines for the Management of Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems; and 2) develop a model for education of local government officials and contractors on successful installation, performance, and management of OWTS.

Methods: Methods will be to: 1) provide expertise to 3 demonstrations of local management of OWTS; 2) hold 4 design/management workshops for contractors and local government; and 3) document and distribute local experiences and results. Products useful nation-wide will include: 1) documentation of three demonstrations of local government management of OWTS; 2) documentation of the land grant role in promoting local OWTS management; and 3) tested materials and programming for design/management workshops.

Partnerships: Partnerships of US EPA Region 2 land grants with North Carolina State U; U of Rhode Island; US EPA; Canandaigua Lake Watershed Comm; NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation; Montgomery, NJ; other local, state, agencies will be enhanced, established.

Research: The project integrates research and outreach by researchers and extension educators transferring socio-economic and scientific knowledge of OWTS management to local practitioners. Local experiences may provide direction for future research.

Resources: US EPA Nonpoint Source, CSREES Water Quality programs funded the Region 2 OWTS symposium. New work will be funded by US EPA Nonpoint Source, CSREES Water Quality funding; land grant faculty time; local contributions of facilities, staff support.

Results: Outputs include 3 demonstrations of local OWTS management; documentation of local experiences; documentation of the land grant role in management; 4 design/management workshops for contractors, local government; tested materials, programming for design/management workshops. Audiences include local government, contractors, agencies, and land grant faculty. Outcomes include improved materials for education, management; increased land grant capacity for education and local capacity for management.



The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.

