



Edward Vergano, P.E.  
Director

TOWN OF CORTLANDT  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES  
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June 15, 2011

Dear Resident:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) now mandates municipalities within the New York City watershed (the watershed that supplies drinking water to NYC) to pass a local law requiring that on site septic systems be inspected and septic tanks to be pumped out every three years beginning May, 2011.

As required by the NYSDEC, on 4/12/2011, the Town of Cortlandt Town Board, at a public meeting, adopted Local Law #1-2011 requiring residents within the NYSDEC watershed to have their septic tanks pumped out and the septic system inspected at least once every three years to be in compliance (you can read Local Law #1 on our website at [www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)).

Therefore, since your property is within the NYC watershed **you have three years** to have your system pumped out and inspected by a Westchester County **licensed** septic system contractor. These **licensed** contractors are listed on the Westchester County website at [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com).

As required by the NYSDEC, the Town of Cortlandt will be responsible to monitor the inspection and pump out program and issue notifications and/or violations to those that are not in compliance. The new law applies to both residential and commercial septic systems and carries fines up to \$200 for violations.

Property owners will be required to maintain copies of their inspection and pump out records for at least six years, as per the state mandate.

It is important to note that if any component of the septic system is not functioning correctly based on the contractor's inspection, the contractor must report the violation to Westchester County and the property owner must make the appropriate repairs.

**In an effort to assist you with the cost of the pump outs, inspections and any necessary repairs, the Town of Cortlandt secured a grant for \$300,000 dollars. On a first come first serve basis, residents can apply for up to \$2,000 dollars, which must be equally matched by the property owner. For example, if the pump out and inspection costs \$500 dollars, while the grant funds are still available, the property owner can receive half of the cost or \$250 dollars. Also, if \$4000 dollars or more of repair work is needed for the septic system the property owner can receive \$2000 towards the overall cost.**

In closing, we appreciate your cooperation with this mandated program by New York State to protect drinking water. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (914) 734-1060 or by e-mail at [edv@townofcortlandt.com](mailto:edv@townofcortlandt.com).

Sincerely,

Ed Vergano, P.E., Director of Technical Services, Town Engineer  
residentsepticinspections