

Focus of This Issue: Storm Water, Waste Water and Septic Systems

Have You Ever....?

Have you ever tasted New York City's drinking water? For most of us, it is unique and delightful. But there is an impressive history of civil projects and ongoing efforts by many groups to protect and preserve it. The city had been drawing water from reservoirs and lakes east of the Hudson River since 1842. The city's growing population sent it to the Catskills west of the Hudson, where the Ashokan Reservoir was constructed between 1907 and 1915. Following that, the Schoharie Reservoir was built between 1919 and 1927, the Roundout Reservoir between 1937 and 1954, the Neversink Reservoir between 1941 and 1953, the Pepacton Reservoir between 1947 and 1954, and the Cannonsville Reservoir between 1955 and 1967.

The 1997 New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement required the development of 14 city-funded environmental protection and economic development programs in the Watershed West of the Hudson River. The pact allowed the City to avoid filtering its Catskill-Delaware Water Supply, which provides 90 percent of the 1.3 billion gallons of water consumed daily by 8 million residents of New York City as well as a million people in Ulster, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

One of the organizations working to protect and preserve this

water supply is the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). It's ongoing programs include: the Catskill Fund for the Future (**Economic Development**), which provides loans and grants to businesses and organizations; **Septic Repair and Maintenance**, which funds residential septic system repairs, replacements, and maintenance pump outs; **Storm Water Planning and Control**, which funds planning, assessment, design and implementation of storm water and erosion controls for existing conditions, as well as storm water requirements for new con-



Catch basin installation in Village of Delhi, part of a storm water retrofit project



Installation of hydrodynamic separator, storm water control project, Hunter Town Highway Garage

(continued on page 2)

Have You Ever....? (continued)



Installation of pump chamber for a septic system in Margaretville

struction; **Education**, providing grants to schools and organizations; **Community Wastewater Management**, which funds a program to evaluate and build community-specific wastewater solutions, which may include septic maintenance districts, community septic systems or wastewater treatment plants, plus other programs.

As an example of their involvement, a storm water retrofit was constructed in Hunter, Greene County, involving a 270' long filter fabric swale, curbing, and a series of catch basins to direct runoff from the hill behind the town's highway garage and off the parking area, into an underground separator. The treatment system is expected to remove 80% of the Total Suspended Solids and associated pollu-

tion. Another storm water retrofit project involved a residential

neighborhood in Delhi, Delaware County, which addressed both drainage problems and potential phosphorus pollution. Catch basins and storm drains were installed on two streets to connect with a runoff treatment system, which included a constructed wetland. Village, County and State Public Works officials, along with CWC and NYC Department of Environmental Protection, collaborated on the conjoined projects.



Thanks to Diane Galusha, Communications Director, Catskill Watershed Corporation, for the photos and facts presented in this article; check out their marvelous website, www.cwconline.org for much additional information. Thanks also to Doug VanDeusen, Lamont Engineers, for putting us in touch. □



Septic tank being installed at an Ulster County home site

Think Big...Like The Town of Springwater...



1000-gallon 2-compartment septic tanks

To remediate its town properties with non-existent or non-working old home waste disposal systems, the Springwater Sanitary Sewer System installed 208 new 1000 gallon 2 compartment septic tanks, supplied by Lakelands Concrete Products. Each tank included a Zabel A-1800 Filter at the outlet fitting, plus two 20" diameter x 6" HDPE Risers with tamper resistant covers by Polylok. The septic tank effluent flows into a pump chamber, which pushes the flow through a 1 1/4" force main into the town pressure sewer system, which then carries it to the town wetlands system.

If 208 new 1000-gallon septic systems isn't impressive enough, then consider the four new wetland treatment systems they constructed to work with the tanks. Each measures 100' x 200', and is filled with stone, thus acting like a big horizontal filter.



'L' Sections installation

The walls were constructed from 20 foot long precast 'L' sections, which were post-tensioned together. The nearby photos show the assembled tanks, with HDPE 60 mil Geomembrane laid in, and attached to the concrete walls by way of cast in PEC Channel by Poly-Flex. As described by Tim Rock, Larsen Engineers, what you see at the completed site simply looks like a 6" concrete curb outlining each bed.

Thanks to Chad Bond, Lakelands Concrete Products, for this story and the related photos. □

Walls post-tensioned, geomembrane installed



PCANY Miscellaneous...

Notes from the January 31, 2008 Septic Group Meeting and the Association Annual Meeting will be available on our website, www.pcanyc.org. There you can also find information on many lunch box talks; each offers professional licensing credits. □

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