

Received
January 7, 2011



TOWN OF SEEKONK PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

December 6, 2010

United States Environmental Protection Agency
c/o Thelma Murphy
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 - C I P
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The Town of Seekonk has been prudent and diligent in its efforts to comply with the NPDES permit that expired in December 2008. During this time minimal funding was available and appropriated to accomplish the many components of the permit. The Town's Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC) performed many of the tasks included in the permit and was creative and resourceful to assure our past compliance.

As I'm sure you are aware, many small communities have been greatly impacted by recent cuts at the state level which has also impacted Public Works budgets. The DPW budget is the channel for NPDES funding. While reviewing some of the many new aspects of the proposed permit, it is apparent that it will be difficult to achieve our goals with current budget projections and fulfill all our permit requirements.

While we understand and agree with the importance of improving water quality, we are also concerned with the costs of meeting the new permit requirements. We have discussed the issue of setting up and implementing a stormwater utility and believe the process would take several years. In addition, many people have already commented that this proposed method of funding would conjure very little support and is viewed as merely another way to impose a tax.

Fortunately, Seekonk has had the ability to accomplish past requirements with only a modest financial burden. We will continue to utilize all available resources and advocate for funding but future funding will be difficult. We ask that as new mandates are required financial assistance also be provided to insure that cities and towns can continue to comply with new regulations.

Sincerely,

Robert Lamoureux, Superintendent
Chair Stormwater Advisory Committee

Cc: Board of Selectmen
SWAC Members