



Town of Bristol, RI
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT
2 PLANT AVENUE
BRISTOL, RI 02809-3015
(401) 253-8877 fax: (401) 253-2910

TOWN HALL
10 COURT STREET
BRISTOL, RI 02809
(401) 253-7000

Matthew A. Calderiso Jr., Superintendent

October 23, 2009

RE: *New Septic System Ordinance*

Dear Bristol Homeowner:

The Town of Bristol, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Kickemuit River Council are cooperating to bring the enclosed brochure, *Caring for Your Septic System A Homeowner's Manual 2009 Update*, to all Bristol residents who are not served by municipal sewers. This booklet will inform you about steps that you can take to protect your septic system, wells, groundwater, home environment, and our rivers and bays. Please share this information with your family, a new owner, or your tenants.

If not properly maintained, septic systems can cause serious health and environmental problems. Pollutants from malfunctioning systems can contaminate our wells, reservoirs, and coastal waters. A properly maintained system works with the soil to effectively neutralize pollutants. You can help protect your septic system, well and environment by using the suggestions in this booklet. We encourage you to read this booklet, keep it handy for future reference, and use the information in it to safeguard the health of your family, the value of your home, your well, and your environment. Remember to: (1) conserve water; (2) monitor what goes down the drain; and (3) inspect and pump your system regularly.

The Town of Bristol recently adopted the Onsite Wastewater Management ordinance regulating private septic systems and requiring regular inspections, maintenance, and if necessary upgrades or replacement. The Water Pollution Control Department offers a program for financial assistance with septic system pumping. In addition, residents are eligible to participate in a State funded program that offers low interest loans to homeowners to fund repairs or replacement of failing septic systems. Contact the Bristol Wastewater Department at 253-8877 for more information on these programs.

With many thanks,

Matthew Calderiso
Bristol Water Pollution Control Department

Ernie Panciera and Jonathan Zwarg
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Ann Morrill and Steven Roth
Kickemuit River Council

We wish to acknowledge the support of Roger Williams University for donating the cost of printing and mailing the enclosed brochure.