

Robert Larson  
Public Works Director  
1 Anna Drive  
Whitefield, NH 03598

Mr. Larson:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service (NHDES), Residuals Management Section (RMS) has been made aware of the upgrades to the Town of Whitefield Wastewater Treatment Facility, installation of the Sequencing Batch Reactor. The Whitefield facility currently operates two aerated lagoons; Lagoon No. 1, which is located on the south end of the site; and Lagoon No. 2, located at the north end of the site. The original facilities study recommendation was to decommission the two existing wastewater lagoons after the proposed WWTF upgrade is completed and the new facility operational.

It is our understanding that the engineering firm (Wright-Pierce) has recommended that the Town of Whitefield delay all lagoon closure activities as part of the proposed WWTF upgrade project. The existing lagoons will remain in operation as part of the new WWTF. The Town could then utilize the new dewatering system to gradually dewater lagoon sludge over the course of several years, eventually working towards permanent closure. The RMS notes that removal and dewatering of lagoon sludge requires a separate Lagoon Closure Plan. Some of the information that would need to be provided are: the estimated amount of sludge currently in each of the lagoons; a description, estimated frequency, and approximate volume (per load) of the sludge removal and dewatering through the new WWTF; a description of proposed sludge treatment, required sampling and laboratory analysis (for landfill disposal or permitted beneficial reuse), and final disposition of this sludge; and an estimated timeframe to dewater/dispose all of the sludge. A "Lagoon Closure Plan" will need to be submitted for review and approval by RMS prior to implementation of removal/dewatering of the existing lagoon sludge. The removal and transportation of sludge derived from human waste shall require a transporter that has been issued a NHDES Sludge Hauler Permit in accordance with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Chapter Env-Wq 800, Sludge Management.

If there are any questions on this, you may direct them to Judy Sears Houston, P.E., at (603) 271-7888 or by email at [judith.houston@des.nh.gov](mailto:judith.houston@des.nh.gov)

Sincerely,

**Tim**

Timothy D. Sweatt  
Environmentalist III, Residuals Management Section  
Wastewater Engineering Bureau, Water Division, NHDES  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302  
Tel: (603) 271-2492 | Fax: (603) 271-4128

[www://des.nh.gov](http://www://des.nh.gov)