

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steven Bellone
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 24, 2014

Dear Design Professional,

This letter announces a new smarter, streamlined wastewater permit review process. The new process which was introduced at a recent training seminar hosted by County Executive Steve Bellone and Legislator William Spencer, MD., is the result of several months of analysis and collaboration between the County Executive's Performance Management team, several county departments and most importantly the design and building community.

We are well aware that the time that it takes for Suffolk County to issue permits is far more than an inconvenience; it is a drag on our local economy and our ability to create local jobs. The goal of this process is to ensure safe, responsible and quality building practices while at the same time making certain that the permit approval process is as efficient and timely as possible. This new modifications and enhancements will encourage and strengthen positive economic development by putting in place a smarter more efficient permit process.

At one time, there were two ways government would seek to handle an issue like this – hire more people or ignore the problem. However, due to the ongoing fiscal crisis, we have begun to do the thing government should have been doing all along, which is to examine processes, break them down and find efficiencies.

During our comprehensive analysis, we learned that just 1% of the total time, from submission of the application to approval is spent on reviewing the technical aspects of the application the balance of the time is spent on an iterative process of awaiting, reviewing and evaluating additional information from the applicant. The process can delay approvals by months. That is why the new process, which will go into effect on July 1st, incentivizes quality submissions and provides clear concise guidance to support the granting of permits in an efficient, quick and mutually beneficial manner.

Please see the attached revamped policies and checklists which were borne from the collaboration and assistance between design professionals, industry groups and Suffolk County. We look forward to working with you as this process is implemented to achieve a 50% reduction in the Office of Wastewater Management's Backlog and a 50% reduction in process duration for quality applications by year end.

If you have any questions regarding the process changes that will take effect on July 1st please contact Walter Hilbert, P.E. at 631 852-5700 or healthwwm@suffolkcountyny.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Bellone
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

William Spencer, MD
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR