

Good afternoon,

Todd J. Machnik  
Mile Creek Road

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I am here to express my concern for the town of Old Lyme's interest in getting into the municipal sewer business. It has been the policy of the town of Old Lyme WPCA, starting under the direction of Mervin F. Roberts, to avoid the pipe method of septic waste disposal for a number of reasons.

#1: The pipe does not work as well as onsite septic system because a functioning septic system is more efficient in removing nitrogen and other forms of waste than a sewer treatment plant would be. Ground water depletion is a known and proven consequence of exporting liquid waste.

For over a decade, the Old Lyme Water Pollution Control Authority had Nathan Jacobson and Associates, a respected engineering firm from Chester, oversee ground water monitoring. No evidence of ground water contamination in the beach communities was ever recorded. No beach closing in Old Lyme ever directly attributed to faulty septic systems.

Old Lyme Shores, Old Colony Beach, and Miami Beach legally formed their own water pollution control authorities. The first two then contacted an engineering company to prove that there were areas within their communities that do in fact have septic waste in the ground. The engineers did exactly what they were hired to do, and provided that documentation. The beach communities, their engineers, and the DEEP have come up with plans to install sewers and force mains to New London just as Point O' Woods has done without town involvement, risk, responsibility, or money.

During one of the Old Lyme WPCA workshops, a resident of Hawk's Nest Beach stated that she had spoken to Senior Engineer Greci of the Connecticut DEEP and was told that the Hawk's Nest and White Sand Beaches are not now, nor in the foreseeable future, going to get an order from the state.

This statement was not in line with what the canned fact sheet provided by the WPCA. Another call was made by an employee of the Town of Old Lyme to Mr. Greci of the DEEP to confirm the opposing statements one way or the other. Mr. Greci stated that there was no evidence of septic pollution, so no order will be forthcoming.

The vast majority of the attendees of the WPCA informational session were from the White Sand Beach or Hawks' Nest Beach areas. I don't believe that any of the people that spoke were in favor of the town sewer plan. The WPCA engineers also stated that two pump stations would be required for this project. They would be located in the areas of the lowest topography, which are White Sand Beach parking area and the end of Hartford Avenue. Those are the only access points that the residents of the Town of Old Lyme can access the beach.

We were told the cost of the project is \$55 million. We were told the cost would be borne by the users of the sewers. We were told there would be clean water funds. We were told there may be grants of unknown amounts. We were told we were trying to get more. We were told by state statute that the maximum dollar amount any single EDU (another term for a homeowner) is the increase in the assessed property value. White Sand Beach has already hired a firm to do individual property assessments. Their

results do not come close to paying the cost of the sewer projects. They do have the right to challenge the town assessment in court. We were told they would do just that, all 150 of 'em. That is a lot of time in court. Ultimately, the taxpayers in the town of Old Lyme are responsible for any short fall.

In closing, I see no reason to pursue a project that the DEEP says we do not need. The residents of the proposed area don't want, and we don't know how we are going to pay for it.

Thank you,

Todd J. Machnik