

S.100 An act relating to housing opportunities made for everyone

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1. Introduction –

- a. For the record, my name is Bryan Redmond and I am the Director of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division in DEC.
- b. A little about my background, I have been working in the water and wastewater field for over 20 years and have been the division director for the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division for the past 7 years. The Division regulates Vermont's public water supplies, permits soil based wastewater systems and private water supplies, and permits connections to drinking water and wastewater systems.
- c. The topic of water and wastewater systems is a wide-ranging topic spanning multiple DEC programs so I will do my best to answer the committee's questions and will follow-up for any that I cannot.

2. S. 100 Support

- a. ANR supports increasing housing opportunities in areas served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure where capacity is available.
- b. Section 2 of the bill establishes prohibitions for making water and sewer capacity available. From ANR's perspective, these prohibitions provide the tools necessary to ensure the water infrastructure is suitable to accommodate the development. (pg 5 lines 6 & 7).

3. Water Systems

- a. Public water systems are highly regulated through state and federal regulations.
 - i. The state issues permits that regulate numerous activities in a public water systems including a system's ability to expand.
- b. Vermont has many small public water systems.
 - i. approximately 1,400 public water systems in VT.
 - ii. approximately 400 Community water systems (these are the system classes that serve our city's/towns/villages) in Vermont.
 1. Approximately 300 community water systems serve populations under 500 persons, and
 2. Only 7 systems serve a population greater than 10K.
- c. A system's ability to expand is limited by its design capacity which includes source, treatment and storage requirements.
 - i. All water systems must operate within their design capacity to meet permit limits.
 - ii. A water system's ability to expand is controlled by the operating permit issued by the State. Systems can fall into 3 basic categories:
 1. No restrictions on expansion – the majority of the municipally owned community water systems.

2. Not permitted to expand but may have limited capacity and needs approval.
 3. Documented inability to expand.
4. Wastewater Systems
 - a. There are 94 direct discharge wastewater treatment facilities in Vermont.
 - b. There are 14 Indirect Discharge Permits for municipally owned indirect discharge systems.
 - c. All wastewater facilities must operate within their design capacity to meet permit limits.
 - i. Both organic capacity (waste strength) and hydraulic capacity (volume) can limit a wastewater systems ability to expand.
 - ii. DEC issues permits to wastewater treatment facilities that require facilities to operate within their capacity limitations.
 - iii. Allocations for wastewater capacity are managed by the municipality.
5. DEC issues permits to connect for both drinking water and wastewater systems through its Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Program.

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to try and answer any questions.