

STARTING A LOCAL ISDS INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADING PROGRAM

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Recognition of Problems (1985)

There are limited financial resources available to extend centralized sewer service beyond the existing service core area. As such, non-serviced areas will have to rely upon a de-centralized WWM approach in the future.

For past ten years there has been a significant change in demographics. Population trends show significant migration shift from urban / suburban areas to rural areas.

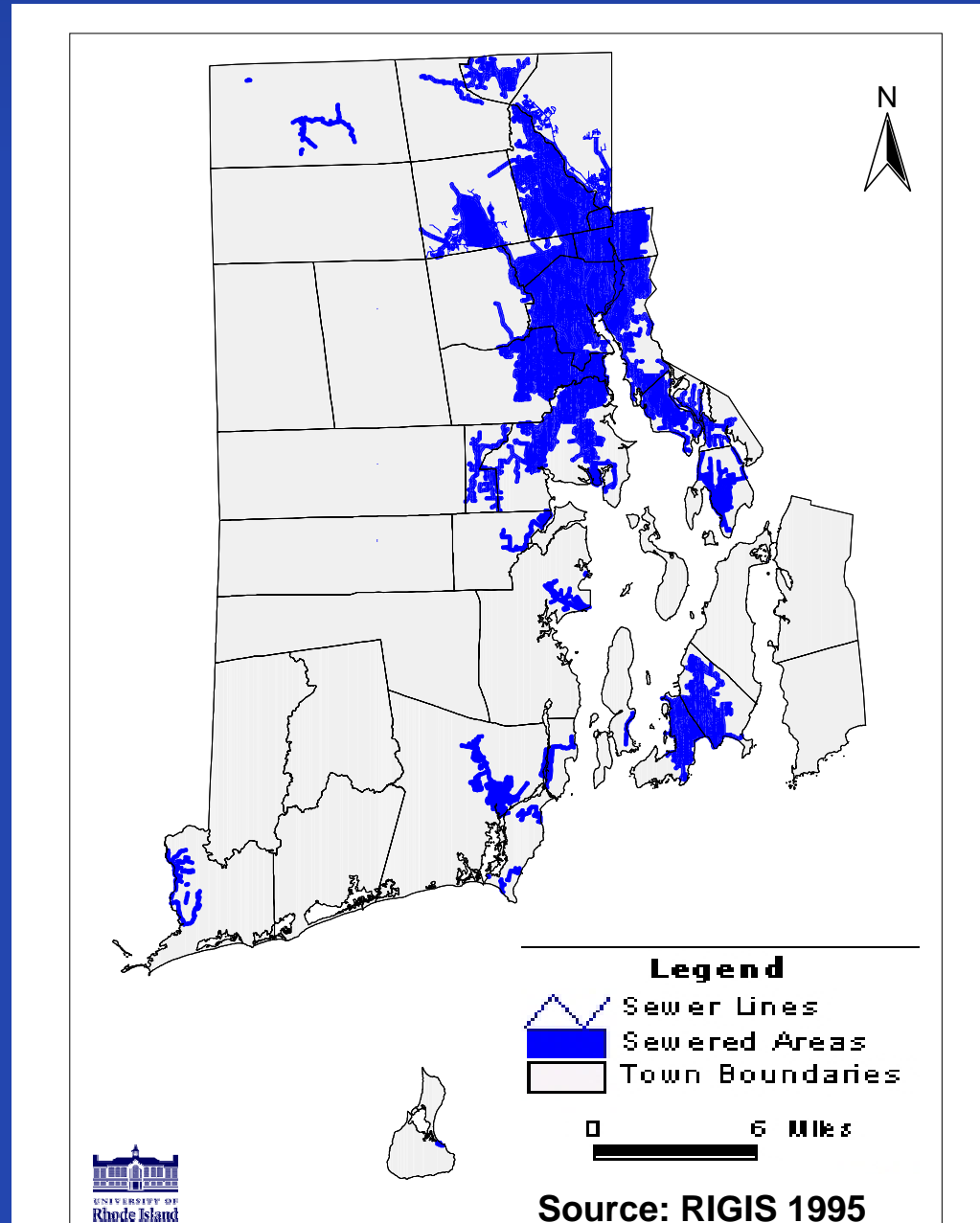
Existing ISDS regulations are inadequate to address regular septic system maintenance.

The State does not have adequate resources to implement and enforce an ISDS maintenance program.

Local governments lack the authority, funding and technical expertise to develop and successfully operate a comprehensive WWM Program.



Rhode Island Sewer Service Areas



State ISDS Regulations

- Standards for siting, design and installation (no maintenance requirements)
- Minimum standards
- Focus on safe and sanitary disposal (not resource protection)
- Provides process for approval of variances to minimum standards



State Task Force (1986)

Organized to review and recommend revisions to the RIDEM ISDS regulations.

Evaluated:

1. Location, design and construction of new systems
2. Maintenance and repair of existing systems
3. Application of innovative technology
4. Public education

Recommended:

1. Passage of enabling legislation to establish WWM districts on a voluntary basis
2. Preparation of model ISDS ordinance for adoption by local communities
3. Expansion of education efforts to encourage proper homeowner care

Results: Septic System Maintenance Act of 1987

Scituate Reservoir Watershed Management Plan – Waste Water Management Districts . . . A Starting Point, R.I. Div. Of Planning, Report No. 62, Dec. 1987



R.I. Septic System Maintenance Act of 1987

Authorized Municipalities To:

Establish WWM Districts

Allow Passage onto Private Property

Order ISDS Maintenance/Pumping

Raise Funds for Program Admin.

Assess Taxes or Annual Fees

Contract w/ Independent Haulers

Levy Fines

Issue Bonds

Set Pumping Rates

Hire Personnel

Est. Public Education Program

Receive Grants / Est. Revolving Fund

Contract w/ Other Towns for Septage
Disposal

Provide for Appeal Process



Septic System Maintenance Policy Forum

Purpose: To bring interested parties together in a forum that will foster candid discussion among policy makers involved with septic system issues.

Topics / Issues:

Innovative/Alternative Technologies
Public Education & Outreach
Inspection Standardization
Pumping Frequency
WWM Program Funding
Local Program Administration

Attendees:

Federal agencies (USEPA)
State agencies (RIDEM, CRMC)
Fed & State Policy Makers
City / Town staff
Academia (URI)
Private Industry Reps. (RIHBA)
Non-Profit Organizations (Audubon Society)



State Initiatives

Dept. of Environmental Management

Section 319 Grants for WWM Program Development
R.I. Handbook for Inspection
I/A Technology Review & Approval Process
Designer and Inspection Certification Procedures
(in concert with URI / OWTC)

Coastal Resources Management Council

Special Management Plan revisions to mandate I/A
technologies within critical resource areas

Clean Water Finance Agency

Funding for de-centralized WWM programs



WWM Program Funding

- RIDEM Non-Point Source Pollution Planning Grant (\$37,500)
- RICWFA Revolving Fund for CSSLP (\$300,000)
- RIDEM Onsite WM Plan Implementation Project (\$25,000)
- USEPA National Demonstration Project (\$3,000,000)



Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP)

- Administration
 - Rhode Island Housing
- Loan Terms
 - 4% fixed rate
 - \$25,000 maximum loan amount
 - Loan terms up to 10 years
 - No income restrictions
 - 45% debt to income ratio maximum
- Program Requirements
 - All work completed by licensed installer
 - No current bankruptcies
 - No current Federal tax liens
 - Certificate of Conformance required prior to fund disbursement
- Fees
 - no application, title, credit report, appraisal fees or points



Block Island and Green Hill Pond Onsite Wastewater Demonstration project

Overview: *To undertake a four year program designed to effectively manage water quality from a watershed perspective.*

Principal Partners: Town of New Shoreham Town of Charlestown
Town of South Kingstown University of Rhode Island

Funding: \$3 Million USEPA Grant / \$1 Million In-Kind Match

Objectives: Establish WWMD's within the three communities with an emphasis on mandatory ISDS inspection and maintenance program

Develop and implement a comprehensive education outreach program for municipal staff, citizens and designers/haulers

Install and monitor various I/A technologies in the field



Drafting a WWM Ordinance (Issues)

- Know the enabling legislation relative to zoning, land use and wastewater management
- Local comprehensive community plan should specifically support on-site wastewater management program
- Compile existing technical information
- Conduct necessary scientific investigations (where needed)
- Base regulations on results of technical/scientific data – include in “findings” section of WWM Ordinance



WWM Program & Ordinance Approval (Issues)

- Consider what is politically palatable; anticipate possible need for compromise
- Begin public education effort early in process
- Carefully detail Program costs to city/town
- Carefully detail Program costs to citizens
- Short & long terms costs of doing nothing (tourism dollars, water supply degradation, property value impact)
- Address Program logistics to maximum extent possible
- Develop a realistic financial assistance strategy (identify potential sources w/ estimates)



Education Strategy for WWM Program

- Target Audiences
 - Homeowners
 - Realtors
 - Businesses
 - Visitors/Renters
 - New Homeowners
- Programs (Pre & Post WWM Ordinance Approval)
 - Fact Sheets
 - Newspaper Articles
 - Workshops & Meetings
 - Professional Seminars



On-Site Waste Water Management Ordinance Town of South Kingstown, RI

- Established WWM District
- ISDS Commission
- Public Education Program
- Mandatory ISDS Inspection / Maintenance
 - Phase Implementation
 - Mandatory Cesspool Replacement
- Remediation Plan(s)
- Enforcement
 - NOV Procedure
 - Fines
- Financing
 - Fee Structure
 - Grant / Loan Program



Governing Regulations On Site WWM District

- Public Services Dir. Serves as Program Administrator
- Conservation Commission serves as ISDS Commission
- First Maintenance (Baseline) Inspection / Routine Inspections
- Inspection Frequency
- Standard Inspection Reports
- Failed Septic Systems
- Inspection Program Phasing
- Education



Miscellaneous Governing Regs. On Site WWM District

- Septage Disposal (State approved facility)
- Septic Tank Additives (prohibited)
- Low Flow Water Devices (required)
- Garbage Disposal Units (over size tank required)
- Risers/Effluent Filters (recommended)
- Watertight Tanks (required)
- Cesspools (mandatory replacement)
 - Within Five years of Inspection
 - Within One year of Property Transfer








ISDS Inspection Program Phasing

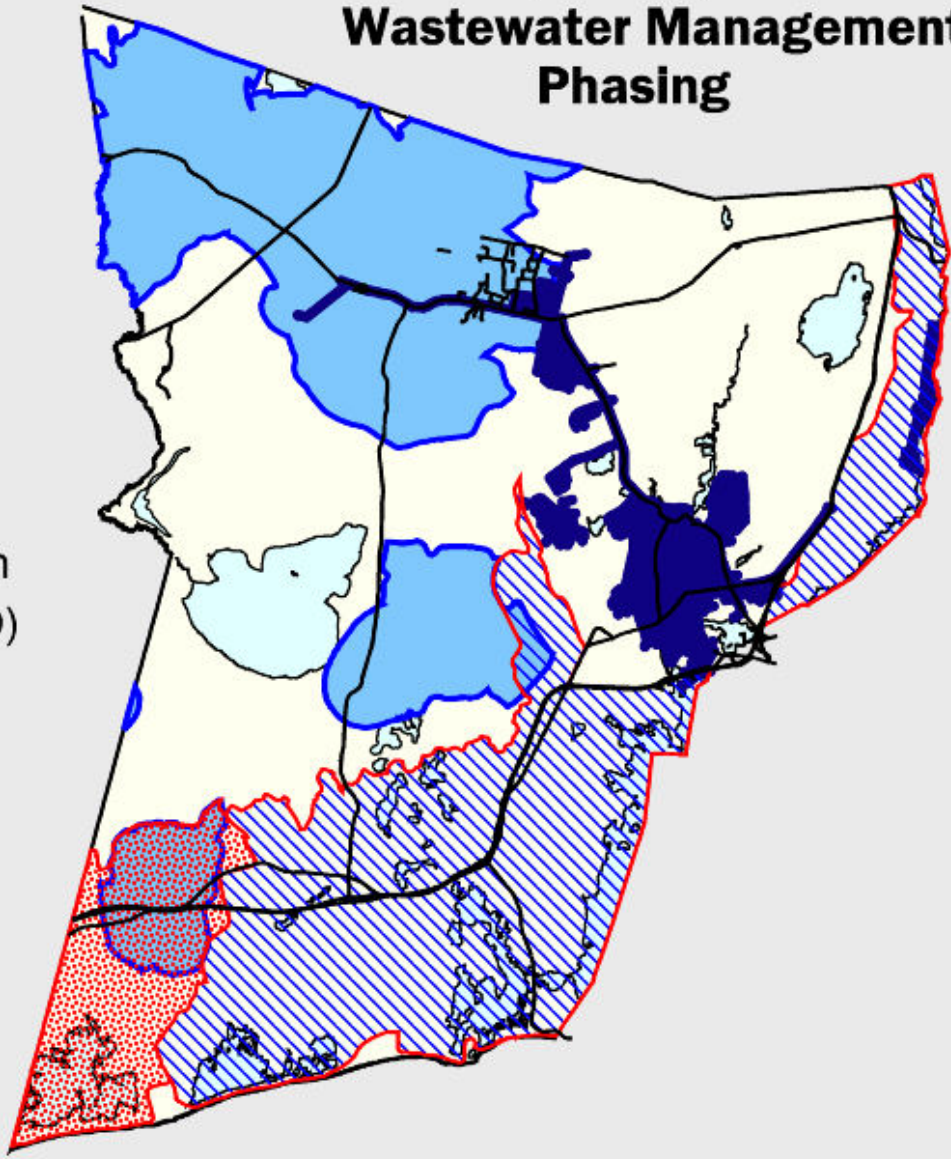
Overall phasing sequence based primarily on presence / extent of environmentally sensitive and critical resources.

Phase I	Green Hill Pond Watershed
Phase II	Coastal Watershed (Salt Pond Region) Narrow River Watershed
Phase III	Ground Water Protection Overlay Districts Wellhead Protection Areas
Phase IV	Remaining Non-Sewered Areas



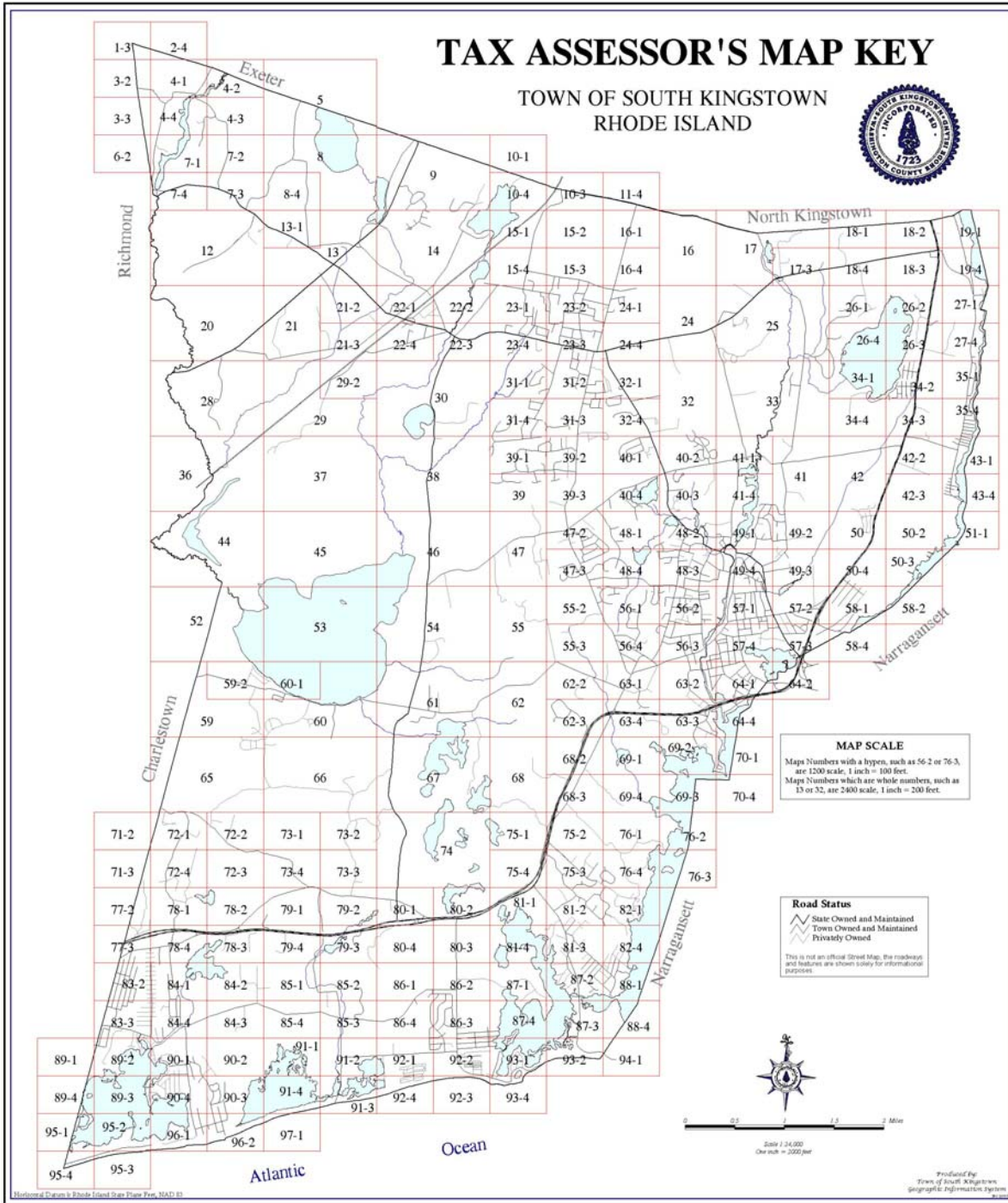
Town of South Kingstown
Wastewater Management Phasing

- Phase 1**
 Green Hill Pond Watershed and Factory Pond GPOD
- Phase 2**
 Coastal and Narrow River Watersheds
- Phase 3**
 Groundwater Protection Overlay District (GPOD)
- Phase 4**
 Remaining Unsewered Areas
-  Sewered Areas

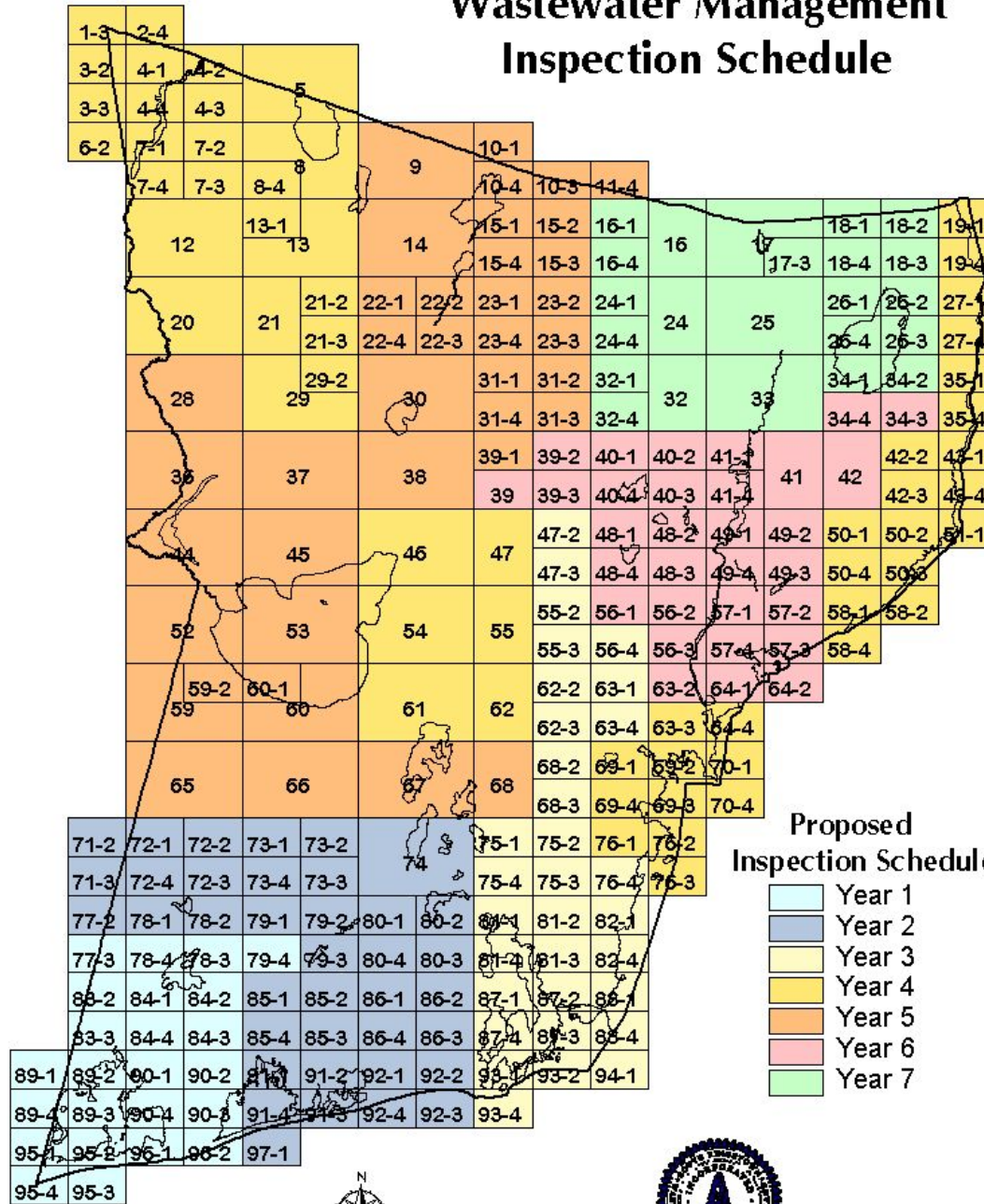


TAX ASSESSOR'S MAP KEY

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
RHODE ISLAND



Wastewater Management Inspection Schedule



Geographic Information Systems

JML 10/01



**Town of South Kingstown
Onsite WWM
Inspection Program Summary**

9/17/04

YEAR 1

Mailing Sequence	Mailing Date	Number of Properties	Inspections Completed	Percent Completed	Number of Passed ISDS	Percent Passed	Number of Cesspools	Percent of Cesspools	Number of Failed ISDS	Percent Failed ISDS
GH1	6/24/02	220	217	98.64	213	98.16	1	0.46	4	1.84
GH2	7/15/02	216	212	98.15	210	99.06	5	2.36	1	0.47
GH3	9/3/02	211	207	98.10	205	99.03	13	6.28	1	0.48
GH4	10/15/02	225	215	95.56	211	98.14	7	3.26	5	2.33
GH5	3/4/03	210	202	96.19	196	97.03	5	2.48	5	2.48
GH6	4/15/03	214	205	95.79	195	95.12	36	17.56	8	3.90
TOTALS		1300	1258	96.77	1230	97.70	67	5.33	24	1.91

YEAR 2

MAT1	6/10/03	133	119	89.47	117	98.32	16	13.45	2	1.68
MAT2	7/15/03	160	159	99.38	157	98.74	6	3.77	2	1.26
MAT3	9/2/03	141	131	92.91	126	96.18	31	23.66	5	3.82
MAT4	10/14/03	149	139	93.29	138	99.28	21	15.11	1	0.72
MAT5	3/15/04	141	131	92.91	125	95.42	18	13.74	6	4.58
MAT6	4/5/04	148	140	94.59	136	97.14	1	0.71	4	2.86
TOTALS		872	819	93.92	799	97.56	93	11.36	20	2.44

YEAR 3

EMAT1	5/17/04	147	134	91.16	131	97.76	9	6.72	3	2.24
EMAT2	6/17/04	303	277	91.42	256	92.42	42	15.16	21	7.56
EMAT3	7/19/04	280	212	75.71	201	94.81	38	17.92	11	5.19
TOTALS		730	623	85.34	588	94.38	89	14.29	35	5.62

TOTALS TO DATE

		Number of Properties	Inspections Completed	Percent Completed	Number of Passed ISDS	Percent Passed	Number of Cesspools	Percent of Cesspools	Number of Failed ISDS	Percent Failed ISDS
		2902	2700	93.04	2617	96.9	249	9.22	79	3.10

What's Next?

- Assessment of Program to date
 - Administration Efficiency
 - Extent of Compliance
 - Financial Assistance Program Success
- Pretreatment Standards
 - Identify Areas of Concern
 - Build-out Analysis
 - Future Impacts
 - Development of Standards

