



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

August 14, 2009

Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: info@njpines.state.nj.us

Pinelands Commission to provide \$100,000 to help design a community wastewater treatment system in Buena Vista Township

NEW LISBON, N.J. – During its meeting today, the Pinelands Commission authorized an agreement to contribute \$100,000 to help design a community wastewater system in Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County.

The parties to the agreement are the Commission, Buena Vista Township and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, or ACUA. Under the agreement, the Pinelands Commission's contribution will help defray costs the ACUA will incur to determine the feasibility of building a community wastewater system to serve the current and future needs of the Richland Village Redevelopment Area in Buena Vista.

"This agreement will serve as a model for using community wastewater systems that can handle wastewater demands associated with rural commercial development while protecting Pinelands water quality," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the commission. "The Commission appreciates the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's willing cooperation to participate in this special project."

Buena Vista Township lacks an adequate wastewater disposal method to service the Richland Village Redevelopment Area. The approximately 193-acre village is located off Route 40 and is currently 50 percent developed. An onsite, community wastewater treatment system would have positive benefits on water quality in an area currently served by onsite septic systems, while providing opportunities for economic growth, such as the modest expansion of businesses and limited residential development.

Among other things, the agreement calls for the Commission to help the Township identify permit requirements related to the installation of a wastewater system and likely financial resources to help offset project design costs. The Commission also will provide technical assistance and advice relative to wastewater treatment system feasibility, location and type. The Township will determine the boundaries of the area to be served by the system, and it will assess existing wastewater demand within the project area based on current wastewater flows, identify plans for known or planned development within the project area and determine demand for existing and future development.

(MORE)

Pinelands Press Release

Page 2...

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority will prepare a detailed analysis to determine site suitability, and it will prepare preliminary system designs and preliminary construction cost estimates. The Authority will also help to identify funding sources that may be available to build, operate and maintain the wastewater treatment system.

The Commission's \$100,000 contribution will come from the Community Planning and Design component of the Pinelands Conservation Fund. The Commission uses this Fund to undertake three types of projects: permanent land protection, conservation planning and research and community planning and design initiatives. The Fund was created in 2004 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to permit the construction and upgrade of an electric transmission line through eastern portions of the Pinelands. The utility that built the transmission lines, Atlantic City Electric (formerly Conectiv), provided \$13 million to establish the Fund. The fund was created to further the Pinelands protection program and ensure a greater level of protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands Area.

####