

ACRPC News

September 2002



Some Highlights of the New On-Site Septic Rules Now in Effect

After years of debate, the Legislature passed an on-site bill last session and the Agency of Natural Resources wrote rules to implement the new law. The rules went into effect on August 16.

For those of you have not yet waded in to the 40 pages of statute and over 150 pages of rules, here are some of the salient features of the new regulations.

1. A single-family residence in existence before June 14, 2002 or substantially completed by November 1, 2002 on a lot that was exempt from state permit requirements can be modified without requiring a permit until June 30, 2007. From July 1, 2007 on, any modifications or addition of bedrooms will require a permit.

2. All subdivisions from June 14, 2002 on will require a permit regardless of the lot size. The 10-acre exemption ended on June 14.

3. A single-family residence can be built on a lot that was exempt from state permit requirements, if that lot was in existence on June 14, 2002, without a state permit until June 30, 2007 if its systems are certified by a licenced designer to meet the standards in the new rules. This option terminates on July 1, 2007.

4. The rules establish three approaches to meeting the site requirements: prescriptive, enhanced prescriptive and performance based.

The prescriptive approach requires at least 24 inches of soil above the seasonal high water table or bedrock. The maximum slope cannot exceed 30 percent.

The enhanced prescriptive requires 18 inches of soil to bedrock and 12 inches to the seasonal high water table. The maximum slope cannot exceed 20 percent for lots created from June 14, 2002 on.

The performance based approach can be used on sites that do not meet the standards above, within specified limits, providing that the designer certify that the system will function year-round and keep all effluent at least 6 inches below ground.

5. The new minimum site conditions for the enhanced prescriptive and performance-based approaches cannot be used in municipalities that do not have a confirmed planning process and zoning bylaws. This conditions expires on July 1, 2007 when the new site conditions will be available everywhere. This condition also does not apply to 10-acre plus lots that were created between June 14 and October 31, 2002.

This brief summary only hit a few of the highlights of the new on-site regulations. There will be opportunities to learn more about the rules in upcoming months.

Municipal Planning Grant Deadline This Month

Municipal Planning Grant time is approaching faster this year. This year the application deadline for FY03 has been moved to **September 30, 2002**.

For those towns whose plans are expiring within the next year or so, this is an excellent opportunity to receive funds to support the rewriting and reoption process.

The Municipal Planning Grant Program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

In order to apply, municipalities must have a current, regionally adopted plan. If you have any questions or would like assistance with applying, please contact Brandy Saxton at 388-3141 or by email, bsaxton@sover.net.

September	Calendar		October
4	Transportation Enhancement Grant Letters of Intent Due.	9	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.
11	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting. Lawson Lounge, Middlebury College.	13	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
17	3:00 p.m. Economic Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.	30	7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.
18	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.		
25	7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.		
30	Municipal Planning Grant Applications Due.		

Published by:
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
 79 Court Street
 Middlebury, VT 05753
 Ph. 802.388.3141
 Fx. 802.388.0038
www.acrpc.org

VLCT 2002 Town Fair

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2002 Town Fair will be held Thursday, September 26 at the Killington Resort.

Throughout the day there will be a series of workshops and events, as well as the VLCT Annual Meeting. There will be workshops on two topics of special interest in the Addison Region, Watershed Planning and Stormwater Management, and an On-Site Sewage Update.

Registrations are due by September 13. For more information contact VLCT at (800) 649-7915.

LCBP Education and Outreach Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program is accepting proposals for education and outreach programs that will build awareness of issues facing the Lake Champlain Basin.

The application deadline is October 4. Grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded. There is a 25 percent match requirement, which may be in cash or in-kind services.

Nonprofits, educational institutions and local government entities are eligible. For more information contact LCBP's Colleen Hickey at (800) 468-5227.

Culvert Inventories

Last year, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) allocated funds to conduct bridge and culvert inventories. These inventories are part of the new requirements for municipalities to reduce their local share of town highway and bridge program funds by 10 percent.

The TAC has allocated more funding this year to conduct bridge and culvert inventories for interested towns on a first-come, first-served basis. TAC funds will cover the entire cost of the inventory.

To request an inventory, or for further information call Garrett Dague at (802) 388-3141.

What's New at www.acrpc.org

2002 Road Maps (<http://www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/GIS/GIS.htm>).

The newly adopted sections of the Regional Plan (http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/reg_plan.htm).

Educational brochures on Development Review Boards and Riparian Buffer Zones (<http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/other.htm>).

Checklists to assist municipalities in navigating the many steps required to adopt or amend plans and bylaws (<http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/other.htm>).

Updated 2002 municipal information (<http://www.acrpc.org/pages/communities/communities.htm>).

And as always, you can find meeting announcements and minutes.

Planning and Zoning Workshops

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be holding another series of planning and zoning workshops for local officials. Last year the series focused on the core information that planning and zoning officials need to know to deal with land use issues in their communities.

This year's workshops will delve deeper into more advanced planning and zoning topics such as permitting, enforcement, dealing with nonconforming uses or structures, home occupations and site plan, conditional use, subdivision and PRD/PUD review.

Like last year, the workshops will be held using Vermont Interactive TV. However, this year there will be more interaction and less lecture.

The program will allow attendees to work through hypothetical zoning applications together and then hear from experts as to how they would treat the applications.

For more information contact VLCT at (800) 649-7915 or ACRPC at (802) 388-3141.

Address: <http://www.acrpc.org>

activities regional plan
publications commission
communities

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

79 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Addison County
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Mission & Work Plan Bylaws Delegates Committees Roll Call Minutes & Agendas Press Releases RFPs Staff Location Leicester Survey Results