# Nonpoint Source Planning Grant

## Sanitary Survey for Alternative Waste Management

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

A sanitary survey is a method of investigating the sources of contamination to a waterbody due to failing sanitary systems, such as individual onsite septic systems. This sanitary survey report must evaluate potentially failing onsite septic systems and make recommendations for sewer extension or replacement of individual systems in-kind. Surveys must focus on identifying signs of system failure that could contaminate groundwater or surface water. Signs include but are not limited to: observable discharges, odors, back-ups, use of holding tanks, persistent bacteria contamination or excessive nitrates in nearby wells, or visible contrast from dye testing. Planning to support projects to upgrade, repair or replace elements of a wastewater treatment and/or collection system, or the construction of such system for an area with failing onsite septic systems, are referred to the New York State DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program. The following required elements must be included in the final survey.

## Required Elements

I. **Cover Page:** (project title, prepared by, professional's stamp, and date)

II. **Executive Summary:** Overview of the project's purpose

III. **Projective Objectives:** Include a project background description and history/problem statement.

IV. **Site Information and Location:** use types within the focus areas(s) (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial), equivalent dwelling units calculation, and any other site-specific information

V. **Existing Conditions:** document existing septic systems and environmental conditions, including any recent information available on the direct impact the failing systems have on nearby waterbodies or drinking water sources

   a. **Topography & Subsurface Conditions:** description of slopes, soil conditions, groundwater elevation, etc. in the focus area(s) that would contribute to poor septic system function

   b. **Environmental Resources**: description of waterbodies, agricultural districts, wetlands, endangered species, archeological sensitive areas, floodplains, or other environmental resources

   c. **Surface Water Sampling (if surface water impacts are suspected):** summarize and include lab reports for sampling. Sampling must occur between the months of May-September and reports must be no older than five years.

   d. **Groundwater Sampling (if groundwater impacts are suspected):** summarize and include lab reports for sampling. Reports must be no older than five years.

   e. **Dye-testing:** photographs of dye tests with visible contrast, note conditions before test such as odor indications of septic system failure and document test procedure and findings.

f. **Site Inspections:** document site conditions such as odor and visual indications of septic system failure, such as effluent in drain field or nearby waterway

VI. **Existing Conditions Maps:** A map must be created for Soils, Water and Environmental Resources and Acreage Assessment. Each map much include a date and project title, north arrow / legend, graphical scale (1 "= 10', 20', 30', 40', 50', 60' or 100')

a. Soils Assessment: map displaying soil types in project area

b. Water and Environmental Resources: map of project area displaying nearest waterbodies, 100-year floodplain, wetlands, environmental resources

c. Acreage Assessment: map displaying parcels impacted by project

VII. **Comparison of Alternatives:** Provide a narrative comparison for potential alternatives to remediate sources identified in the sanitary survey. If sewer extension is not feasible a feasible alternative, provide a justification.

VIX**. Anticipated Regulatory Approval and Permits:** (list all that will apply, e.g. NYSDEC, NYSDOT, etc.)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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