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NEWS from the CWC

Septic System Repairs Reach 3,000 in Watershed

MARGARETVILLE, July 31 – The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) has paid for the repair or replacement of 3,000 residential septic systems since 1997.

The new systems, which have replaced failed or sub-standard cesspools, septic tanks and leach fields, effectively treat as much as one million gallons of wastewater generated each day at households in the five-county New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River.

The Septic Repair and Replacement Program was launched in 1997, the first water quality protection program to be run by the CWC under terms of the landmark NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. Since then the program has reimbursed 3,000 homeowners for eligible septic replacement costs – an average of \$10,300 per system -- in an effort to prevent wastewater from contaminating groundwater and surface streams leading to the reservoirs that supply drinking water to nine million people.

In addition to environmental benefits, the CWC program has had a significant economic impact, employing 142 contractors, 39 engineering and design firms, and many suppliers of septic tanks, pipes, pumps and other devices.

At present, homeowners whose properties are within 200 feet of a watercourse are eligible to participate in the program, which reimburses permanent residents 100% of the eligible costs of repairs. Part-time residents receive 60% reimbursement.

A related program, the CWC Septic Maintenance Program, pays for half the cost of pumping and inspecting systems that were installed since 1997 and are at least three years old.

For more information on these and other public benefit programs offered by the CWC, go to www.cwconline.org, or call toll free 877-WAT-SHED, or 845-586-1400.

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