

Moratorium Statement December 2021
Brookfield Water Pollution Control Authority

As to the issue of Brookfield Sewer restrictions for new applications, the matter stirred a constructive dialogue with area developers. The consensus was to implement restrictions until there is better clarity as to a potential agreement to increase allowable flows from Brookfield to Danbury. It is widely agreed that this is the first and best option. This matter is awaiting a meeting with the Brookfield First Selectman and Danbury Mayor both only seated early December.

Separately, in November the State has agreed to fund a \$1,500,000 Planning Grant at 55% to bring the Candlewood and Pocono Road projects to the point of a Public Hearing and a town wide vote for Bond financing. Part of this project is to determine how the wastewater should be handled. That solution will add future capacity allowing the recent spike in development to continue. This could involve installing one or more package waste treatment plants in Brookfield, probably in the north end of town. However, this will require the Town sponsor the Planning Grant project at 45%. The funds will need to be borrowed then returned when the bond funding arrives. A bond would be paid for in the conventional way, that is through a Benefit Assessment on improved properties. Issues for Brookfield waste treatment include the option of permitting a package treatment plants. This will take time but is doable. The Brookfield WPCA is anticipating further sessions with key developers and elected officials as schedules allow.

The current regulations at Section 1.2 have said since they were first adopted, "To ensure that the Town does not exceed its available treatment capacity, no sewer connection or discharge permit shall be issued by the Authority with respect to any property ... applications for Sewer Connection and Discharge Permits shall be considered only when the Authority determines that the public sewer system and existing sewage treatment capacity is capable of conveying and adequately treating the sewage to be discharged."

Brookfield does not have the current capacity to accept further applications unless additional capacity is secured. But there are exceptions. Consequently, this restrictions are now in place as of January 1, 2022 while awaiting a solution to a path to additional capacity.