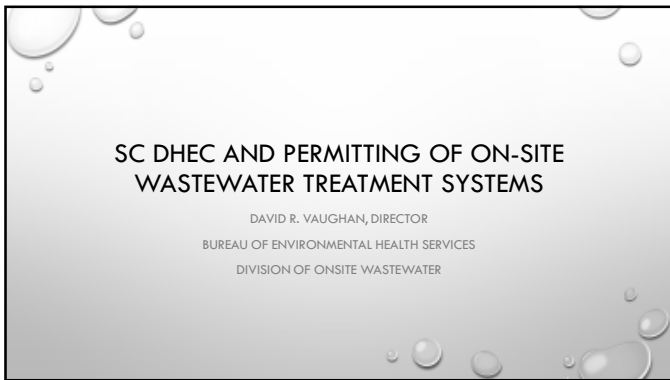
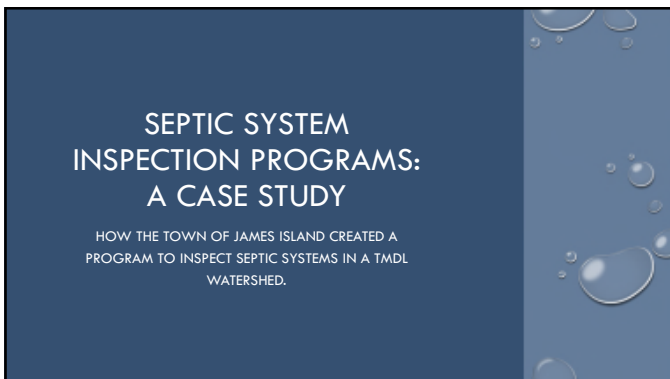


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Consult your attorney for advice concerning specific situations.







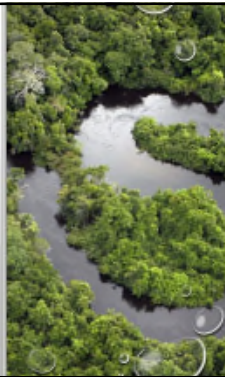
THE PROBLEM

IN NOVEMBER OF 2019, SC DHEC WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE USEPA ISSUED A TMDL FOR JAMES ISLAND CREEK DECLARING IT TO BE AN IMPAIRED WATERBODY AND THE POLLUTANT OF CONCERN WAS LISTED AS ENTEROCOCCUS BACTERIA, A FORM OF FECAL COLIFORM MOST OFTEN FOUND IN ANIMAL WASTE. A REVIEW OF WATER TESTING RESULTS FOUND THAT THE MOST PREVALENT SOURCE FOR THE ENTEROCOCCI BACTERIA WAS FROM HUMAN FECAL SOURCES. THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE FOR THIS WAS SEPTIC TANKS.



POSSIBLE SOURCE

FURTHER STUDY OF THE EXISTING CONDITIONS IN THE JAMES ISLAND CREEK WATERSHED REVEALED THAT OVER 200 PROPERTIES WERE ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS. SOME OF THESE PROPERTIES HAD BEEN DEVELOPED MANY DECADES AGO. ALSO, SINCE THERE WERE NO REQUIREMENTS FOR ONGOING INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THE SYSTEMS WERE WORKING PROPERLY, IT WAS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT SOME SYSTEMS WERE FAILING AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE POLLUTION IN THE CREEK.

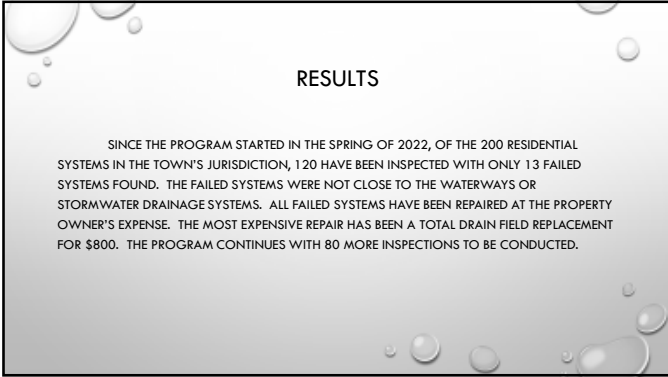


THE SOLUTION

SINCE THERE WAS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR REGULAR INSPECTIONS OR ONGOING MAINTENANCE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL IF THIS WAS THE TRUE CAUSE FOR THE IMPAIRMENT. LACKING REGULATORY AUTHORITY BY ANY AGENCY, THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND LEADERSHIP DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION. IN NOVEMBER 2021 THE TOWN PASSED AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE JAMES ISLAND CREEK WATERSHED WHO WERE ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS TO ALLOW CONTRACTORS HIRED BY THE TOWN TO DO BASELINE INSPECTIONS OF THEIR SYSTEMS. RESULTS OF THE INSPECTIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS AS WELL AS THE TOWN.









POSSIBLE BAN ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS?

IN THE WAKE OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT INTO AREAS THAT ARE NOT SERVICED BY EXISTING CLOSED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, SOME OFFICIALS STARTED TALKING ABOUT POSSIBLE BANS ON ANY FURTHER SEPTIC SYSTEMS.

SUCH A BAN WAS QUICKLY DISMISSED AS IMPRACTICAL AS SOME REMOTE, RURAL AREAS COULD NOT HAVE CONNECTION TO EXISTING SEWER SERVICE AND NEW SERVICE EXTENSIONS OR EVEN NEW TREATMENT PLANTS ARE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE.



WHAT DID JAMES ISLAND DO?

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Continue | Continue inspections in the TMDL watershed |
| Require | Require residents in other areas to get inspections every 3 years and keep records |
| Partner | Partner with James Island public service district to run new wastewater service into the areas of the tmdl watershed with septic systems. |

SC DHEC AND PERMITTING OF ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

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