

Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Systems, and UIC Permits

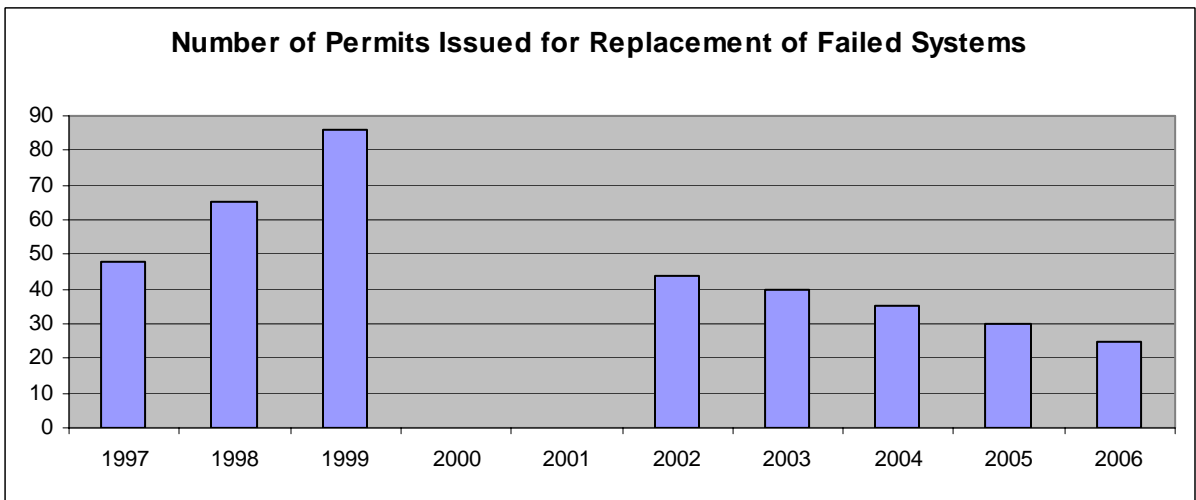
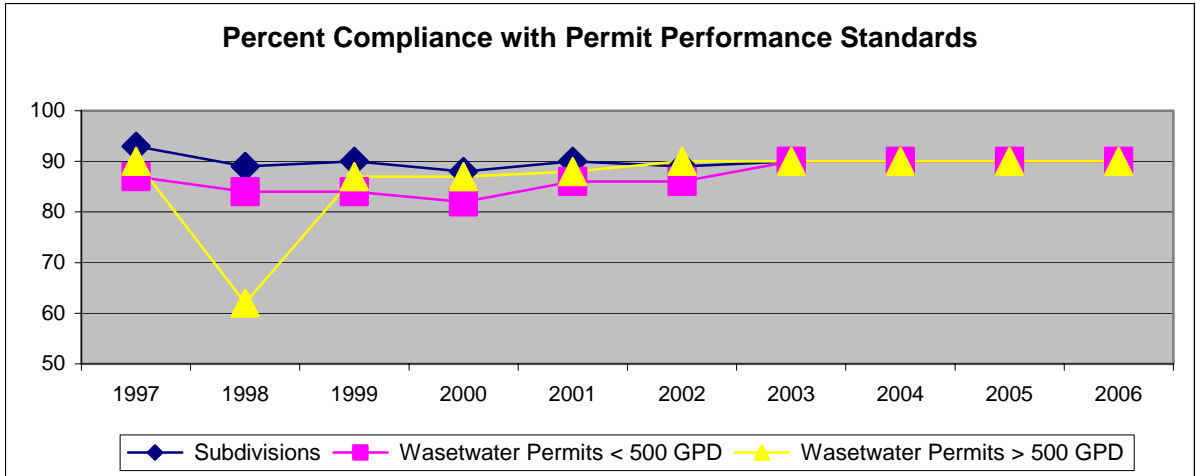
Wastewater Management Division

March 3, 2005

Results

New development or changes in existing development will have adequate potable water supplies and wastewater systems. Groundwater and surface water will be adequately protected.

Key Indicators



Number of unpermitted underground injections permitted or closed.

Story behind the baseline

The Division has regulated a portion of the water and wastewater systems since 1969, including those for newly created lots of less than 10 acres in size and for public buildings. With legislation passed in June of 2002, jurisdiction was increased to cover

all new lots and will be gradually extended to cover all water and wastewater systems by July 1, 2007. There are about 80,000 existing permits with about 3,000 new ones issued each year. There are 27 positions in five regional offices that review new sites and the associated plans, and manage the existing records. The records management is an important function, as Vermont Law requires a project to be in compliance in order to have a clear title.

Vermont has also been delegated the operation of the Underground Injection Control Program. The Division is responsible for all injections of wastewater that infiltrates into the ground that are not separately regulated by the Secretary under other permits.

Performance Measures, Strategies , Proposed Accomplishments

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	“P”=Projected and “A”=Actual Values	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
One lot Subdivisions	P							800	825	850	875	900
	A	742		817	923	987	928	893				
Multi-lot subdivisions	P							450	475	500	525	550
	A	251		223	253	293	364	646				
% Compliance with Performance Standards	P								90	90	90	90
	A	93%	89%	90%	88%	90%	89%	93%				
Wastewater Permits < 500 GPD	P							525*	525*	525*	525*	525*
	A	598		550	591	575	524	543				
% Compliance with Performance Standards	P							90	90	90	90	90
	A	87%	84%	84%	82%	86%	86%					
Wastewater Permits > 500 GPD	P							500*	500*	500*	500*	500*
	A	385		426	470	435	553	654				
% Compliance with Performance Standards	P							90	90	90	90	90
	A	91%	62%	87%	87%	88%	90%					
Number of permits issued for replacement of failed systems	P											
	A	48	65	86			44					
Underground Injections Inspected	P		6	6	6	6	50**	50**	6	50	50	50
	A		3	2	1	2	4	3				
Underground Injections Permits	P											
	A	7	0	0	0	2	0	4	8			
Underground Injections Permit Applications	P											
	A	4	0	0	0	6	3	8	10			

* Numbers based on continuing permit requirements for municipal connections.

** These numbers anticipated closing of registered floor drains and we did not begin the program on schedule because we are trying to update the rules to allow for permits by rule and/or general permits.

Strategies

The Regional Office program handles a high volume of permits that affect small businesses and individuals. The past strategy has been to review every permit for conformance with the rules both technically and in the field. The jurisdiction for these permits has been recently expanded and will increase again in 2007. In order to accommodate the increased workload, 5 staff were added to the program in 2002. However additional improvements in processing are necessary. The program has increased the reliance on professional certifications and has reduced review of technical details. Focus will be directed to the adequacy of the site conditions.

We will provide additional training for the designers, realtors, and attorneys to help people understand the permitting requirements and thereby reduce the processing times for individual projects. We will provide additional written guidance for use by the staff and others that will be available on the Department web site.

Proposed Accomplishments

We intend to provide at least 24 hours of training sessions to engineers and site technicians, revise the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules during CY 2005 to expand site technician authority and to incorporate legislative changes and the make the rules easier to use, and to revise the Underground Injection Control Rules in CY 2005.

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

The UIC program acknowledges and agrees with many of the concerns expressed by EPA about the status of UIC wells in Vermont. The UIC program is focusing on three primary areas; developing new rules, issuing new UIC permits, and inspections of facilities that may have UIC wells.

Work to update the 1984 UIC rules in Vermont is the primary focus of the program at this time. Through this process the regulated community will be educated about the new requirements and the scope of the UIC program will be redefined to best meet the federal requirements, the concerns of Vermont about UIC wells and the available capacity to administer the program. The new rules will continue to use a general permit approach, where appropriate, to control UIC wells in Vermont, in addition to individual permits.

Performance measures for number of UIC applications and permits, and inspections have been updated for the years 1997 to 2004. The trend shows an increasing number of applications for UIC permits. The department will continue to conduct multimedia inspections and use the checklist that includes UIC wells.