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Job Impact Statement

6 NYCRR Subpart 646-3: Wastewater Management

1. Nature of Impact

The proposed Lake George Park Commission (Commission) regulations and wastewater system inspection program will have a relatively small, but beneficial, impact on jobs and employment in the region. Initial jobs will be created in the public sector as wastewater system inspectors and design/construction plan reviewers. It is expected that property owners will take a more active role in managing their wastewater systems and will more regularly enlist professional assistance in design, pumping, and maintenance. This additional activity may lead private businesses to hire new positions, such as septic haulers, construction contractors, or wastewater engineers. The program is not expected to have any adverse impact on regional employment or directly lead to the loss of any jobs.

2. Categories and Numbers Affected

The wastewater system inspection program proposes the Commission hiring two seasonal wastewater system inspectors every year between the months of April and October. There are five Towns (Lake George, Queensbury, Bolton, Hague, and Ticonderoga) and one County's Consolidated Board of Health (Washington) that will be responsible for reviewing new wastewater systems and redesigns of systems that fail Commission inspection. The rate of inspection failures requiring redesign and new system construction is expected to be similar to other programs in the State. Reviewing municipalities have noted their ability to handle the extra workload internally based on assessments of other septic inspection programs in New York.

In the private sector, there were a minimum of twenty DEC certified septic haulers identified in the region and approximately 5-10 engineering/design firms that may see an expansion of business. These are all small-to-medium sized businesses, and similarly could accept the additional workload with one additional worker each. Also, systems requiring variance or deviation from the proposed LGPC Standards would require improved treatment through various means such as an Enhanced Treatment Units, additional soil or other methods.

3. Regions of Adverse Impact

There is not expected to be an adverse impact on the number of jobs in the region, however, there could conceivably be a challenge in finding enough septic hauler workers to meet the needs of the region. Speaking with several haulers regarding this issue, those haulers noted that they would be able to fill any staffing needs that the program might generate.

4. Minimizing Adverse Impact

As discussed above, there are no adverse job impacts associated with this rulemaking that need to be minimized.

To the extent that the regulations will pose some additional costs on the regulated community, the Commission has been open and transparent with the regulated community during the process of drafting the proposed regulations and inspection program. The goal has been to educate the public and allow time for those ultimately affected to make preparations. The Commission held public meetings with the elected officials of municipalities, local business leaders, and wastewater professionals for approximately nine months prior to submitting proposed regulations. Also, the Commission mailed a letter to every septic system owner in the park to be impacted by the proposed inspection program. Finally, Commission has reached out to certified septic haulers for their opinion on the upcoming program; those contacted have expressed support and a willingness to accept extra business. By working openly and with the public, Commission has given notice to address employment needs that the program and regulations will have on the Region.

5. Self-Employment Opportunities

There are several existing self-employed operations that could benefit from the proposed regulations and program, including septic haulers and design firms. Also, the additional activity from inspections, pumping, and construction could lead to new entrepreneurial opportunities for these services in the Region.

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