



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



Frank Nistico
Red Barn Restaurant
292 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880

January 28, 2009

Re: Red Barn Restaurant Wastewater Treatment and Renovation System

Dear Mr. Nistico,

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in receipt of the Preliminary Engineering Evaluation of alternatives for wastewater collection treatment and disposal facilities for the Red Barn Restaurant located at 292 Wilton Road in Westport, Connecticut, prepared by Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates and dated January 21, 2009.

In particular, the report provides preliminary information of financial impacts and technical feasibility for implementation of two available alternatives for wastewater treatment and disposal for the Red Barn Restaurant. Although the report did not go through the exercise of actually calculating the cumulative financial impact of constructing, operating, maintaining and monitoring an on-site wastewater treatment and renovation system or constructing and maintaining a municipal sewer connection, it did provide cost estimates for construction for the respective alternatives. As presented in the report, the estimated cost for construction of an on-site advanced biological wastewater treatment system with select fill placement is 1,200,000 dollars, while the estimated cost for construction of a municipal sewer connection is 661,539 dollars. It is worth noting that the operation, maintenance and monitoring on an on-site biological advanced wastewater treatment system generally requires more financial resources than the maintenance of a municipal sewer connection.

The existing on-site wastewater disposal system is currently pumped on a regular basis to avoid surface failure. As presented in previously submitted information and agreed upon by DEP staff, it is unlikely that the DEP design criteria for an on-site wastewater treatment and renovation system can be met at this site. Therefore, this option does not seem like a technically feasible alternative.

The DEP's review of the report's cost estimates for construction of the two alternatives, an onsite advanced wastewater treatment systems and a municipal sewer connection, and the evaluation of their respective technical feasibility indicate that a municipal sewer connection would be the most cost effective long-term remedial solution for the Red Barn Restaurant. However, it is ultimately the Westport WPCA's decision whether access to public sewer can be supported for this particular case.

I have conferred with the DEP's Planning and Standards Division of the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse regarding the connection to the Westport sewer. To reiterate, while this property is currently outside the sewer service area, the DEP would not object to the connection of this property to the sewer on the basis that it is solving an existing water pollution source, provided the connection is only for this property and serves only as a limited system designed solely to meet the existing needs of the Red Barn Restaurant.

Please note that DEP staff expect that the problems with the existing on-site wastewater renovation system be corrected as soon as possible in order to avoid a potential public health threat, abate an existing source of pollution and ensure the long-term protection of the waters of the state from a source of pollution. Towards that end, the DEP will be available to assist the Red Barn Restaurant and the Town of Westport to promptly bring this matter to resolution.

If you have any questions, please call me at (860) 424-3876.

Sincerely,



Antoanela Daha
Sanitary Engineer

Cc: Chairman of Westport WPCA
Mark Cooper, Westport/Weston Director of Health
Brian Curtis, Nathan L. Jacobsen & Associates
William Hogan, CT DEP