

DEP'S ON-LOT SEPTIC MOVEMENT

At the Wayne County Township Officials Association meeting today, 2/3/10, I witnessed democracy as it was intended to be. DEP had two representatives explain that it was not their intent to shut down development in Wayne County but to 1) maintain and protect the watershed and 2) to assure that best management practices (BMP) are in place for sewage management.

All of this appears to be a direct reflection of a decision from an environmental hearing decision that was from a law suit brought on by an environmental group against the DEP in an area far from ours here in northeastern PA but affects anyone in an area with protected waters in the commonwealth. Wayne, Pike and Monroe counties have much of their waterways in the exceptional value or high quality classifications and are therefore the direct target of the BMP's which are driven by anti-degradation analysis. The judge that awarded the decision determined that on-lot septic systems fall under this analysis.

Tom Shepstone stated that Wayne County has a \$100,000,000.00 economy that depends on the housing industry and this is an unfunded mandate by DEP.

If DEP were allowed to continue on its current path it would bring (has already started) developing and building in our area to a stand still.

You can rest assured that our elected officials as well as concerned citizens are on the offensive with this issue. A task force was formed today to stay on top of this and Justin Hoffman from Kiley Associates, and a member of our association, will be serving on it.

I will keep you posted with any update I receive on this issue.

Kevin Coutts
Chairman
Legislative Committee