

N.H. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES GREAT BAY NITROGEN POLLUTION SOURCE STUDY

Make a difference in your community by telling us how we can improve our information. Your feedback will be used to figure out how much nitrogen pollution in the Great Bay is coming from septic systems. Later, we will need your help to better understand other nitrogen sources in town.

STEP 1: Look at the map in this letter.

STEP 2: Review the colored blobs that show the percent of households in each blob connected to sewer lines. Compare this information to sewer service area and sewer line maps or use other local knowledge to determine if any changes are needed.

STEP 3: Call, email or send marked up map with changes **by Sept. 16** to:

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WHAT: This study will look at nitrogen pollution that comes from other sources besides wastewater treatment plants, including septic systems, fertilizer, and air pollution. The results will be used to evaluate where and what type of pollution control will have the most effect for the lowest cost. This study is not a part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) permit for wastewater treatment plants; that permit is issued separately by the EPA.

WHO: N.H. Department of Environmental Services staff, Phil Trowbridge

WHERE: The 52 communities in the Great Bay region will be divided up into study blocks by how the water flows over the land and into the bay.

WHEN: The goal is to finish in September 2012.

HOW: Mapping developed lands, farms, fields, and natural areas in the 52 communities and calculating the amount of nitrogen carried to the bay from these areas.

WHY: Recent trends show that nitrogen pollution is increasing and reaching unhealthy levels in Great Bay. Nitrogen is the number one threat nationwide to clean water where rivers meet saltwater, like the Great Bay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Philip Trowbridge at (603) 271-8872 or email Philip.Trowbridge@des.nh.gov