# Digitizing Albany County Septic and Well Data

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Stormwater Coalition of Albany County

University at Albany – SUNY Student Mapping Projects

NYSDEC WQIP Grant Contract C00081GG

## **Presentation Outline**

- I. Origins of the Project
- II. Understanding Septic Systems & Wells
- III. Understanding the Albany County Department of Health Data Set
  - Guidance Documents
  - Folder 29359
- **IV. Folder Investigations & Spreadsheets**
- V. Preparing Data for "GIS" Software
- VI. Maps
- VII. Lessons Learned

# I. Origins of Project

#### NYSDEC MS4 Stormwater Permit Minimum Control Measure 3

Identifying sources of surface water pollution and eliminate them

Failing septic systems - source of pollution

#### ...to groundwater and surface water

### NYSDEC WQIP Grant #C00081GG

Identify "Priority Areas"

i.e. Where are septic systems located?

Identify areas of historic on-site sanitary system failures

i.e. Use data to help anticipate on-site system failures

#### **Previous NYSDEC WQIP Grant (2010)** Estimated Location of Septics



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## II. Understanding Septic Systems & Wells

#### Septic systems- treat wastewater onsite. Wells – drinking water.

#### **Reading Material**

**National Small Flows Clearinghouse brochures** 





#### **Reading Material**

#### **National Small Flows Clearinghouse brochures**



drinking water well

eptic tank

- distribution box
- absorption field
- Soil absorption (unsaturated zone)
- groundwater (saturated zone)

#### Wastewater treatment and disposal in soil



### **Reading Material**

#### **National Small Flows Clearinghouse brochures**





#### property line 10 feet → 20 feet -----10-15 feet - 10 house drainfield septic tank. 100 feet 100 feet een) Typical layout of a septic system 19.4

**Reading Material** 

#### Field Visit 9/29/18 Job Shadow



County Health Dept – Proposed Septic System Berne, NY

### Proposed Septic System - Field Visit (cont'd)

County Health Dept – Division of Environmental Health Services Approves all septic systems and wells in Albany County WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

- Can the soil support a leach field? (absorption rate of soil-PERC TEST)
- Does the leach field need fill? (sand vs. ground soil)
- Location of well relative to septic (separation requirements)



# Why septic systems fail?

Failure: wastewater enters ditches, streams, and groundwater UNTREATED Pollutants of Concern: Bacteria/viruses; Nutrient loading (nitrogen & phosphorus); Organics (paint thinner, solvents)

- Leach field compacted heavy vehicles drive over it
- Leach field clogged with solids tank not pumped out routinely
- Helpful leach field bacteria get killed hazardous chemicals poured down drain
- System undersized more people live in the house than expected

### III. Understanding County Well & Septic Data "ACDOH/Tom's workbook"

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8 7	North Fast #2	Rte 85A	N Scot Comm	1995	80	45 65	-73 9135	42 6492	Sand	CHEIVIICAL -			Septic info.
9 8	Voorheesville	Grove St.	Voor Comm	1993	64	23 60	-73.9275	42,6550	Sand				
10 9	Flemings MHP	Rte 9W	Coev Comm	1978	250	7 40	-73.8136	42,5153	20-1	water data?			hoon
11 10	Knox Estates	Knox Cave Rd	Knox Comm	1998	442	110 15	-74.1146	42.6750	0-4 H	water data:			guu.
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14 13	Mazzeo, J.	184 Orchard Hill Rd	N. Scot 27080	1999	220	3 5	-73.9209	42.6075	0-25		8 Na 238, "S" odor	>45 Yes	
15 14	Pidgeon	Rte 85	N. Scot 27098	1998	300	32 11	-73.9812	42.5936	0-7 H	"good"?	Fe 0.4	>60 Yes	in that
16 15	Cramer, J.	Rte 85A	N. Scot 27119	1999	20	7 30	+ -73.9610	42.6438	0-7 H	guu :	5 Cond 1175,	9 Yes	in that.
17 16	Lawrence, S.	Youmans, 131	N. Scot 27208	2000	280	20 3	-73.9194	42.6345	35-22		5 Fe 2.1, Na 67	27 No	
18 17	McDonnell, J.	Picard Rd	N. Scot 27360	2001	31	6 10	-73.9891	42.6545	0-10		7 Fe 0.5	10 Yes	What is
19 18	Pickup, D.	Clapper Rd	Beth 27083	1999	145	50 15	-73.7893	42.5579	0-13		8 Fe 2.8, Na 118	16 No	vviidt 15
20 19	Hallenbeck, S.	Rte 403	Westerld 27081	1999	400	146 6	-74.0633	42.4386	0-6 H	Nood to constate	🕑 "S" odor	>60 Yes	
21 20	Porte D.	Goodfellow Rd	Westerlc 27235	2000	420	x x	-74.0743	42.5100	0-13	Need to separate	D "S" odor, Na 102	No Yes	PERC OT 10?
22 21	Hughes, R.	Rte 360	Renss 27227	2002	182	100 8	-74.1504	42.4933	0-71		1 Fe 1.04	24 Yes	
23 22	Rauf, J.	Jaycox Rd	Renss 27151	1999	160	28 14	-74.1186	42.4538	0-48	this grouped data	2 Fe 0.37	8 No	***
24 23	Barilla, S.	Sayre Rd, 238	Renss 27129	1999	150	44 8	-74.1588	42.4486	0-4 H	ting Broabea aata	B Fe 2.3	 No Yes	••
25 <b>2</b> 4	Lee, H.	Barger Rd, 122	Renss 27089	1998	185	102 10	-74.1346	42.4589	0-40		Good Good	?	••
26 25	Re, P.	Buckhorn Mt. Rd.	Renss 27306	1988	171	10 4	-74.1723	42.4565	0-16	into individual	Good Good	11 No	••
27 26	Brown, A.	Debbie Dr.	Knox 27245	2003	300	37 4	-74.0549	42.6939	0-20		15 Fe 1.0, Na 153	31 Yes	•
28 27	Baumstein, J.	Seabury Rd, 62	Knox 27140	1999	402	40 5	-74.1701	42.6339	0-19	fields Then can	7 Good	 7 No	••
29 28	Spiak, P.	West Rd					-74.1491	42.6430	0-70	neius. men, can	B Good	2 Yes	•
30 29	Doggette, S.	Rte 143	- X/Y loo	catio	n		-73.8377	42.4615	0-11		P Fe 1.3	>60 Yes	•
31 30	Palmer, J.	Keir Rd			••		-73.8835	42.5117	0-5 0	auerv bv	30 Na 155, "S" odor	 17 Yes	•
32 31	Decker, J.	Alcove Rd		2004			-73.9209	42.4650	0-6 0		31 Fe 1.2, Na 93	 5 Yes	
33 32	Williams, A.	Rte 143 & Halsted Ln	aata! (	300a	, ne	eea	-73.8381	42.4622	0-51	individual	2 Good	 16 Yes	
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40 30	Gleasman M	Dte 156	Guild 27215	2000	26	10 5	-74.0081	42.6540	0-25	parameters using	Good	No Ves	•
41 40	Kelleher T	Sickle Hill Rd	Berne 27366	2001	330	11 5	-74 1739	42.5849	0-6.0		D Fe 2 53 Na 83	No Yes	•
42 41	Sequin G	Thacher Pk 1043	Berne 27058	2001	405	101 6	-74 0335	42 6481	0-62	GIS. ID location	Na 57	5 Yes	••
43 42	Lee, A	Rte 85/Flood Rd	Berne 27183	1960<	170	63 6	-74.0316	42,5619	1-6 0		R Na 57, Cond 980	>60 Yes	••
44 43	Engel, R.	Welch Lane	Berne 27198	1999	300	36 3	-74.0741	42,5993	0-6 5	nottorno)	4 Good	8 ?	••
45 44	Shultes, A.	Taber Rd, 67	Berne 27351	2001	98	0 6	-74.1165	42.6276	0-8 0	patterns?	4 Fe 0.38, Mn 0.74, SO4 140	19 No	••
46 45	Sipperly, J	Smith Ave	Beth 27385	2001	130	62 6	-73.8368	42.5293	12-9	•	45 Fe 0.64	 ? Yes	•
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	Or	iginal Data GIS	Field Name - Des	rip   Mis	c	÷					1		

What's inside? How do they differ? Excel "workbook" with 4 "worksheets"

#### **Stormwater Coalition Tool**

#### Well Data Entry Guide



#### Septic Data Entry Guide



Understanding County DOH Record Keeping

Folder #29359 Request # 29359



	Name of Form or Document From Which Data is Obtained	Matching data Name with He Dept Forms	a Field ealth	ACDOH Division of Environmental Health Service-	ACDOH Division of Environmental Health Service-	ACDOH Division of Environmental Health Service-	ACDOH Division of Environmental Health Service- Request Form	NYSDEC Wate Well Complet Report	er tion	NYSDEC Water Well Completion Report
	Reference Number on Form or			Request Form	Request Form	Request Form	Λ	5		6
(	Bocument where into is cocated Field Names (Tom's Spreadsheet Original Data Tab)	ID			ADDRESS	MUNI_	Req #	DATE	$\square$	DEPTH
	Field Names (Tom's Spreadsheet GIS Tab)	ID		NAME	ADDRESS	MUNI_	Req #	DATE		DEPTH
	Field Names (SWC Spreadsheet - File: 2018_WellData_FromFolders. Tab: WellData_DataEntry)	ID	Folder_Location	NAME	ADDRESS	MUNI_	Req#	DATE		DEPTH_ft
							Reg # Irequest			
	Description of Fields (Tom's Spreadsheet. Field Name -Descrip Tab	Unique well identifier*		Unique well name (usually last name and first initial of the well owner)	Property Address of the water well	Municipality of property address	number) is our in house project/file number and cooresponds to both well and septic	Date (year) t well was drilled/driver	ne /dug	Depth (in feet)
		Unique well and septic identifier* This number is VERY important. It was assigned by Cnty DOH	Describes location of	Unique well name (usually	Property Address		Reg # (request number) is the house project/file			Depth of Well Below Land Surface (feet),
	Description of Fields (SWC Spreadsheet - File: 2018_WellData_FromFolders. Tab: WellData-DataEntry).	<sup>to eq</sup> Reviewing <sup>often</sup> for w Mtg w/Toi	Tom's Fiel	d Names de ns/clarificat	escriptions. ions (2/9/1	8) <sup>s</sup>	number used by County DOH for many, many years. It cooresponds to	Date (year) t well was drilled/driver	ie /dug	also called Depth to Bottom of Hole in diagram on
		compiled. There are 734 ID#s in Tbrady spreadsheet GIS tab	Albany County Hall of Recor <u>ds.</u>	also be septic	system		both well and septic from Tom			NYSDEC Well Data Completion Report.
		and 817 ID#s in the Original Data tab.		WELL	DATA		Brady			13

Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report to Albany DOH.	Provided	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.	Laboratory Report Provided to Albany DOH.
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				 (	ndividı Units,	ual Fields for Ch Acceptable Leve	emical Parame els, Other Info)	eters Research
What is Conductivity? Measure of water's capability to pass electrical flow. Abiliy is directly related to the concentration of ions in the water.	What is Alkalinity? Alkalinity as the quantitative capacity of water to neutralize an acid	What is Hardness? Water described as hard, just means that the water is high in dissolved minerals. Eventually lead to mineral buildup.	Nitrate Info: Compound that is formed naturally when nitrogen combines with oxygen or ozone. Essential for all living things, but high levels of nitrate in drinking water can be dangerous to health.	Iron Info: Concentra 1 mg/L will impart taste to the water. concentrations can runoff form mining or industrial effluer indicate the need f investigation befor prescribing a treatu regimen. The US du water standard pro levels above .3mg/	tion above foul ligh ndicate operations t and r further ent nking ibits	Manganese Info: Manganese is required by aquatic species and no toxicity data is available. Surface and ground water rarely contain more than 1 ppm of Manganese. Acceptable levels in potable water is less than 0.05mg/L	<b>Chloride Info:</b> Natural in groundwater at low level. Public drinking water standards require chloride leveles not to exceed 250mg/l.	Sulfur /Sulfate Info: Two forms of sulfur are commonly found in drinking water supples: sulfate and hydrogen sulfide. Both forms are nuisances that usually do not pose a health risk at the concentrations found in domestic water supplies. "S" order is sourced to the decay of organic matter chemical reaction with sulfur-containing mineral in soil and rock. Not considered to be harmful because the taste and odor is so unpleasant at such low levels that the taste and smell would prohibit most people from drinking it well before it reached harmful levels.
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		??? May need to provide guidance for how to convert whatever lat/long is recorded using whatever format is converted to decimel degrees. Need decimel degrees for GIS data.	??? May need to provide guidance for how to convert whatever lat/long is recorded using whatever format is converted to decimel degrees. Need decimel degrees for GIS data.	NYSDEC Water Well Completion Report	NYSDEC Water Well Completion Report				ACDOH Check SDS Request	dist for	DOH Site Inspection for Individual Lots Document
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### FOLDER 25359 Forms



**CHECK LIST FOR SDS REQUEST Septic Data** REQUEST# 29359 giv. Rensilenerille DIRECTIONS: CBM FARMS LLC SAME: MEYERS ROAD OR RIES 351 Actiony Hill Ad CHECK LIST FOR SDS REQUEST Insp. Init. DATE 8/23/12 WM FIELD VISIT 5 DATE 9/24/12 W [ 9 APPLICATION RECEIVED SDS: DATE 9/1/7/12 WELL: DATE 11/7/12 W FEE RECEIVED N/A [] FILL LETTER ISSUED - [] WELL LETTER DATE N/A [] FILL APPROVED DATE []LAYOUT MAILED DATE DATE SYSTEMS APPROVED [ ] FINAL INSPECTION ] WATER SUPPLY INSPECTED & SAMPLE COLLECTED WATER SUPPLY SATIS. DATE DATE WELL LOG SATIS. [] WELL LOG RECEIVED DATE\_ [ ] ADDITIONAL INFO. REQUIRED UN INCOMAILED DATE 10/ 23/13

**REQUEST FORM w/Request #** 

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#### SITE INSPECTION FOR INDIVIDUAL LOTS

### **Septic Data**

#### NYSDEC WATER WELL COMPLETION REPORT

#### Well Data



1970's record keeping

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iffiers Key: X - Exceeds maximum contain S - Lat control sample outside A - Sample contained air tubb L = Maximum Contamin and/or National Prim	nination limit e acceptance limits ble or headapace hant Level referen nary/Secondary I	M - M R - D nced from Drinking 1	latic spike no uplication outs n New York, Water Stand	zeery outside ide acceptanc State Subp fands.	acceptance limits e limits art 5-1 of the F	H - H T - T	told time excee emperature ou Drinking Wat	ded telde specificatio er Standards
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	7:54	55	1		
	7:55	57			
	7:56	59.5			
	7:58	GI			
	7:58	63			
	1.59	45+			
-	8:00	67			
	8:01	69	-		
	8:02	70.5			
	8:03	72			
	5:04	73.5			
	8:05	75			
19	845	88			
(CATED FLOW TO ?	8:15	99.5			
(3 GAR @ 8:36 )	8:35	108.5	V.		
	8:45	114	3		
	8:55	1/6+	1		
L	9:15	118	V		
rement Frequency: d flow rate drawdown and recovery lev min. for 16 min.	rels as follows:				
10 min. to 1st hr.					
50 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	zed, then continue for a m	inimum of 4 hours.			
20 min. until the water level has stabili					

ALBANY COUNTY HEALTH DEPART	MENT 9.		
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HE PAGE 2	ALTH SERVICES	4.5	
YIELD TEST RECORD CONTINUED '	s, reyers	P.C	
DATE, WEATHER & SAMPLE	TIME (Hr:Min)	TAPE MEASUREMENT IN WELL FROM TOP OF CASING	GPM
	9:35	118.5	3
	9:65	118.5	
	10:15	1185	
	10:35	118.5	
	10:55	off site	
	11-15	118.5	
1	11:35	118.5	
	11:55	1185	
	12:15	1135	
	12:35	1(0)	
	12.55	orryce.	
	1:1)	11 8.5	*
Phil off P 1:36	1.35	1185	
Decendant 1	1.36	116.5	*
liecovery	1:3/	113	V
	1.20	111.5	
	1.54	110	
V.	1:41	108.5	
1	1:42	107.5	
Y	1:43	106	
	1:44	104.5	
	1:45	103+	
	1:46	101.5+	
	1:56	915	
	2:0/	80	

DATE, WEATHER & SAMPLE	TIME (Br:Min)	TAPE MEASUREMENT IN WELL FROM TOP OF CASING	GPM
	2:26	69.5	0
and the	2:36	66	
42×4= 168	2:46	63	
300 pin x 3 5 pm = 900	2:56	60.5	
= 1,068 sellens	3:06	58	
proved during	3:16	57-	
test.	5:15	53.5	*
- 44.5' & Dan Dan			
to pax prophy	7:400	a Solt	Next fr
level of 118.5'			
B.S.			1
Tope Hysth = 400			
Aup Alt C 395			
= 276.5 N			
hopy colon orane			
propility sonalited.			
(MAPX 415 54lo-5).			
			1
	-		

### Yield Test Record WELL DATA

# IV. Folder Investigation & Spreadsheets

### ACDOH/Tom's workbook reviewed

- Reviewed data in "Original Data" worksheet
- 75 Request #'s (Folders) reviewed-looked at forms
- Added new data, if available
- Older folders had been moved to County Hall of Records
- For some Request #'s projects started, not completed (ex. had well data, but septic not completed).





# VI. Preparing Data for "GIS" Software

### **Used "Original Data" worksheet**

- Most current data set (1941 to 2013)
- Reviewed data from Folders, checked it against data entered in "Original Data" worksheet
- "Original Data" worksheet was expanded, additional fields were added & data entered from Folders ("Expanded" worksheet)

Well Data: Date groundwater sample collected Lab where tested Water testing results: nitrogen only; sediment only, coliform only, etc.

Septic Data: Completion date Fill – Yes/No # of Bedrooms

# First "test" map

Used "Expanded" worksheet

**PROBLEM:** 

Why are all those points outside Albany County?



# Second "test" map

Data preparation corrections

• No spacing in field names

### Location corrections

- All Lat/long data converted to decimel degrees
- Corrected "outlier" addresses using 2017 tax parcel ownership data



## Data Awareness

The Septic/Well project team discovered that there were two versions of the ACDOH workbook, one more current than the other, but they appeared to be the same. Unknowingly and fortunately the "Expanded" worksheet was derived from the most current workbook using the "Original Data" worksheet.

The "Original Data" worksheet contained location information reviewed and corrected by ACDOH (Tom), which spanned Request # folders dating from 1941 to 2007, plus data NOT reviewed and corrected by ACDOH which spanned 2007 to 2013.

This explained why so many points in the First "test" map, a map generated using all data from the "Original Data", had so many points outside Albany County.

## Data Clean Up

The 75 Request # Folder data in the Expanded worksheet (derived from the "Original Data" worksheet) was reviewed again using this information.

Request # Folder data from 1941 to 2007 was deemed to have sufficiently corrected lat/long positions and did NOT need further review

Request # Folder data from 2017 to 2013 was reviewed carefully. Depending on the project proposal (septic & well; septic only/no well; well only/no septic) location information was corrected.

If septic built but no well or no well data because on public water, then no X/Y coordinate information in folder, only address information. So, used tax parcel data and address info to create a point within the tax parcel, near building where septic likely to be built. Using ESRI Calculate Geometry, a lat/long value generated.

If well data point is outside Albany County, there will still be information about the location of the well in the "Original Data", now "Expanded" spreadsheet. This information (owner name, address, municipality) was cross referenced with 2017 tax parcel data and the point moved to the correct location, near building where well likely to built. Using Calculate Geometry tool, a lat/long value generated.

# VI. Maps

- Based on 75 Request # Folders
- Includes additional data from forms
- Demonstrate multiple ways to look at ACDOH Environmental Health Services data

#### Septics By Completion Date



Septics Located 300ft of Streams



Septics Within Karst Layer



Nitrate Values of Wells in Albany County



ACDOH Wells Tested Positive for Total Coliform



## VII. Lessons Learned

- Successes
  - Demonstrated how to digitized water quality relevant data from Albany County Department of Health
  - Contributions made by Albany Health staff aided in the success of the project
- What could have gone better
  - Better understanding of data by Coalition by outset
  - More timely direction regarding which folders to review (not Westerlo, more from MS4 permitted municipalities).
  - Limited folders viewed, a lot more data available.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology
  - If interested in exploring DOH data, then need think about how data stored now. There may be ways to easily adjust data collection to support GIS requirements.

#### • Student Perspective

- Process of development of individual well and septic systems
- Understanding of data and importance of data collection
- Enhanced GIS Skills

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- Joe Cleveland, Technician Assistant, Stormwater Coalition
- Jared Flagler, Technician Assistant, Stormwater Coalition