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November 27, 2024

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Richmond, VA 23219

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1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, VA 23219

Karen Shelton, MD
VA Department of Health
State Health Commissioner
P.O. Box 2448
Richmond, VA 23218

RE: MPPDC Elevated Septic System Pilot Project Annual Report

Greetings,

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) is pleased to submit the following annual report for the contract titled "Elevated Septic System Pilot Project" with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development dated May 20, 2021. The work is based on Chapter 552 of the 2021 Acts of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Since the previous report submitted during November 30, 2023, substantial progress has been made, although construction originally slated for the Fall of 2024 is now anticipated for December 2024. The MPPDC elevated septic system pilot will be installed at the new public building/facility owned by King and Queen County at 4521 Lewis B. Puller Memorial Highway in Shacklefords, Virginia. The facility, as required, is situated in an upland location outside of any designated Resource Protection Area (RPA) or floodplain.

Construction of the building commenced earlier in the year and was completed during the Fall of 2024. The MPPDC and other tenants plan to move into the building during December 2024 at which time installation of the elevated septic system will occur.

The system, to our knowledge, when installed, will be the first of its kind installed in a public building in the nation where the system is vertically elevated above ground level and both black and gray water treatment can be applied with the treated water effluent being recycled or discharged into a holding tank, on the ground surface outside the building, or treated water returned to the existing drain field.

The system to be installed at the King and Queen facility is manufactured by Orenco Systems (www.orengo.com) and will be installed by Triangle Environmental (www.triangle-environmental.com), who, under separate contract with RISE, Virginia Sea Grant, MPPDC and Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) have already installed a residential elevated septic unit which is currently being monitored and permitted by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The residential property is owned by the MPCBPAA in Gloucester County and the other is a government-owned commercial property located in King and Queen County which is intended to test the units for commercial use. The installation of both units involved discussions and permitting with VDH regarding use of the new technology.

Upon completion of the project, MPPDC staff will a final report detailing the installation of the system and including photographs of the functioning system.

MPPDC appreciates the opportunity to pilot and analyze potential solutions which can provide environmental and public health benefits to the citizens of the Middle Peninsula, rural coastal Virginia, and the Commonwealth. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lewie Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lewie Lawrence
Executive Director