

RE: Request for information, see February 27, 2024 email- Alternative secondary treatment unit Farm Road Homes

Thakor, Harshraj (DEP) <harshraj.thakor@mass.gov>

Tue 3/5/2024 1:40 PM

To:Mark Oram <moram@sherbornma.org>

Cc:Daryl Beardsley <Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org>;Ellen Hartnett <ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org>;Jean Greco <jean.greco@sherbornma.org>;Golden, Claire (DEP) <claire.golden@mass.gov>;Prasad, Harsha (DEP) <Harsha.Prasad@mass.gov>

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Dear Mark,

MassDEP is currently reviewing the STAAR 13.5 application. Please note that, STAAR 13.5 system will require MassDEP's approval prior to any installations. If approved STAAR 13.5 will be allowed to be installed with sites less than 10,000 gpd. Systems that are over 10,000 GPD require a Groundwater Discharge Permit for installation.

For performance data of the systems installed, you can contact local BOH if there is a particular site you are looking for. At Provisional approval stage, the installations and monitoring are approved by local BOH. If you require overall data for all systems within the state, you can contact the system manufacturer.

The BOH can have their own by laws for I/A systems and the regulations can be stricter than DEP criteria and requirements, but they cannot be less stringent. MassDEP does not get involve in local decision making and by-laws.

If you have any question please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you!  
Hersh

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**From:** Mark Oram <moram@sherbornma.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 8:47 AM  
**To:** Thakor, Harshraj (DEP) <harshraj.thakor@mass.gov>  
**Cc:** Daryl Beardsley <Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org>; Ellen Hartnett <ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org>; Jean Greco <jean.greco@sherbornma.org>; Golden, Claire (DEP) <claire.golden@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for information, see February 27, 2024 email- Alternative secondary treatment unit Farm Road Homes

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Hello Mr. Thakor

The subject line has been changed to reflect our request for information.

Thank you, Mark

Mark Oram  
Sherborn Board of Health Agent

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**From:** Mark Oram <[moram@sherbornma.org](mailto:moram@sherbornma.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:40:08 PM  
**To:** Thakor, Harshraj (DEP) <[harshraj.thakor@mass.gov](mailto:harshraj.thakor@mass.gov)>  
**Cc:** Daryl Beardsley <[Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org](mailto:Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org)>; Ellen Hartnett <[ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org](mailto:ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org)>; Jean Greco <[jean.greco@sherbornma.org](mailto:jean.greco@sherbornma.org)>; Golden, Claire (DEP) <[claire.golden@mass.gov](mailto:claire.golden@mass.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contact for Marybeth Chubb; Alternative secondary treatment unit paperwork needed for septic file submission; Farm Road Homes Response to Tetra Tech Review letter -- septic only

Hello Mr. Thakor

The Board of Health in Sherborn has been provided with a proposal for a 76 bedroom condominium proposal known as Farm Road Homes utilizing the STARR 4.5 under DEP provisional approval, see attached approval. The proposal is to utilize 3 of the STARR 4.5 units for the purpose of reducing nitrogen loading and to allow for 76 bedrooms on a 14 acre lot. This proposal is a Chapter 40 B proposal.

Please see the email below from Mike Moreau of J&R Sales in respect for the use of the STARR 4.5 product with 3 units and the engineer is referring to this triple unit as a STAAR 13.5. Mr. Moreau noted the following in his email: "The current permit lists "Engineered Systems" in addition to the specific model numbers. At this time, anything not shown on the permit has been treated as an Engineered System. Septitech recently met with DEP regarding a change to the permit description. Specifically Marybeth Chubb. An updated submission was provided to list these additional systems by model number. A list of existing and pending projects was also submitted, and this project was on that list. Claire or Maybeth would be able to confirm this."

Can you provide an update on the above comments provided by Mr. Moreau and if the updated submission has been approved and if there is a written list with the additional model numbers that included the STAAR 13.5 system?

Under Title 5, 310 CMR 15.286 (5), it is noted the Local Approving Authority may impose additional conditions on the use of alternative systems approved for provisional use under 310 CMR 15.000 only in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to 310 CMR 15.003(3). Are you aware of any Local Approving Authorities imposing additional conditions?

Please advise on the status of the STARR secondary treatment unit for presently installed STARR 4.5 systems and if there has been any failures or other issues preventing the use of this provisionally approved system, see 310 CMR 286 (7):

"(7) The proponent of a provisionally approved alternative system shall conduct a performance evaluation of at least the first three years of operation of at least the first 50 systems installed pursuant to the provisional approval, and a representative sampling of additional systems installed during this period in accordance with a plan approved by the Department pursuant to 310 CMR 15.287(2). The evaluation plan shall be designed to identify promptly any failure of the alternative system to provide the expected level of environmental protection, and to identify the cause if possible. The plan shall provide for reporting to the Department or an agent authorized by the Department at periodic intervals."

Has the Department required a Groundwater Discharge Permit Program for this alternative system as noted in 310 CMR 15.287 (8) "The Department may require the issuance of a groundwater discharge permit pursuant to 314 CMR 5.00: *Ground Water Discharge Permit Program* for any alternative system?"

Also, in the attached approval, Section VI (8) The Department may require the issuance of a groundwater discharge permit pursuant to 314 CMR 5.00 (groundwater discharge program) for any alternative system. Can the Local Approving Authority require a Groundwater Discharge Permit for this proposed alternative system at Farm Road Homes?

Thank you, Mark Oram  
Sherborn Board of Health Agent  
[moram@sherbornma.org](mailto:moram@sherbornma.org)

**From:** Golden, Claire (DEP) <[claire.golden@mass.gov](mailto:claire.golden@mass.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:15 AM  
**To:** Mark Oram <[moram@sherbornma.org](mailto:moram@sherbornma.org)>  
**Cc:** Daryl Beardsley <[Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org](mailto:Daryl.Beardsley@sherbornma.org)>; Ellen Hartnett <[ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org](mailto:ellen.hartnett@sherbornma.org)>; Jean Greco <[jean.greco@sherbornma.org](mailto:jean.greco@sherbornma.org)>; Thakor, Harshraj (DEP) <[harshraj.thakor@mass.gov](mailto:harshraj.thakor@mass.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contact for Marybeth Chubb; Alternative secondary treatment unit paperwork needed for septic file submission; Farm Road Homes Response to Tetra Tech Review letter -- septic only

You don't often get email from [claire.golden@mass.gov](mailto:claire.golden@mass.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Marybeth Chubb is currently not available: she is out on medical leave for the foreseeable future. You should start with Harshraj (Hersh) Thakor. If additional consultation is needed within MassDEP, a network of staff has been established if needed.

Claire

# Claire A. Golden, Environmental Engineer

## MassDEP

### Surface Water Discharge/NPDES and Wastewater Management Programs

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