

Sewer Laws and Wars: *The Limits of Government Use of Sewers to Control Development*



Presented By Timothy S. Hollister LANDS Housing Law CLE & Roundtable October 25-26, 2018

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Greenwich

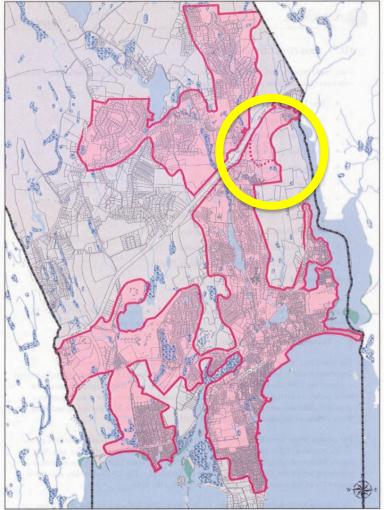
Hartford

New Haven

New York

Stamford

Washington, DC



1) Water features and town bounds 2004 CT DEP GIS CD-ROM series

2) 2004 parcels, buildings, and Existing Sever Service District layers provided by the Town of East Lyme.

3) Building data layer updated using SBC aerial photograph flown in 2001. EXISTING SEWER SERVICE DISTRICT

East Lyme Sewer Capacity Analysis

FUSS & O'NEILL INC.

FIGURE II

Parcels

Water Marsh

Buildings

Town Boundary

Salt Water Flat

Existing Sewer Service District

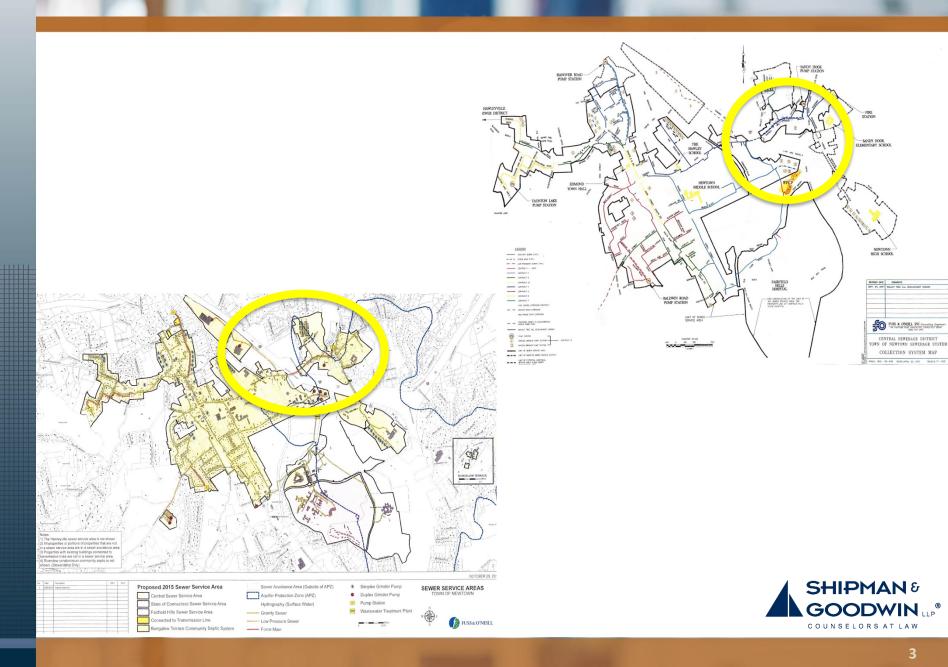
War Story 1





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Law of Sewers

- State statutes
- Local regulations
- Sewer maps:
 - service areas / avoidance areas
- State supervision:
 - Part of clean water jurisdiction
- Intermunicipal Agreements







- Sewer district boundaries
- Treatment capacity
- Extensions
- Capital improvements and maintenance; timing



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Limits on Discretion

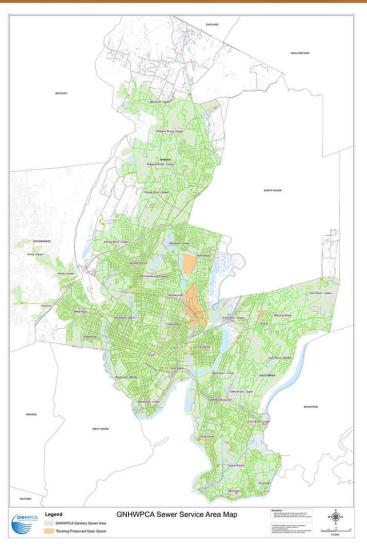
- Cannot be illegal or arbitrary
- Key Issue: are sewers "public utilities"?
- Sewer commissions cannot use sewers to control land use
- Right to capacity and connection:
 - Within sewer district
 - No extension needed
 - Ample capacity
 - No engineering issue





Particular Issues

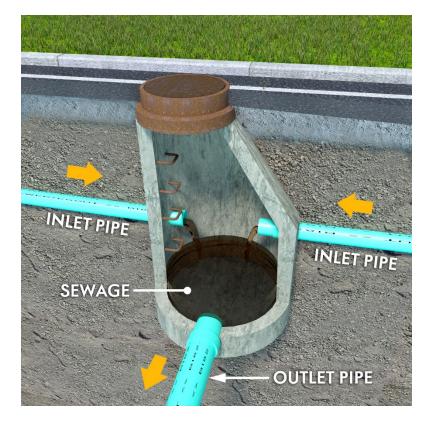
- Sewer Service Areas
- Sewer Avoidance Areas
- Capacity Measurement
- Moratoria
- "Failing Septic Systems"





Particular Issues

- Capital Improvement Plans
- Gallonage Formulas
- Environmental Justice
- Conditional Approvals





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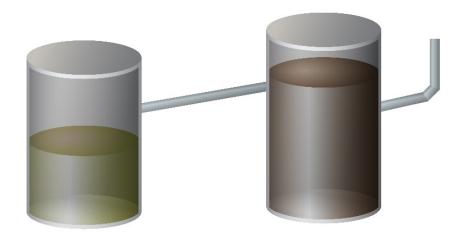
Litigation and Other Issues

- Protected property interest?
- Mandamus?
- Fair Housing Act
- Annexation
- RLIUPA





Potential Ethical Issue: Concurrent Conflict of Interest: Rule 1.7





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Questions?

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