**Month Day, 20XX**

**$$ name$$**

**$$X Street name$$**

**$$Town/city, NH ZIP$$**

Re: **Dover, New Hampshire**

 **2017 NPDES New Hampshire Small MS4 General Permit**

 **Individual Septic System Owner Outreach**

To Whom It May Concern,

Dover is considered an MS4 (Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) community and because of this, must follow the USEPA’s 2017 NPDES New Hampshire Small MS4 General Permit. Through this permit, Dover must take certain steps to help reduce groundwater pollutants that can threaten or impact water quality. One of the largest contributing sources of groundwater pollution is from individual septic systems and so we are looking to you as individual owners of a septic system to do your part.

Regular care and upgrading of your septic system is crucial to protecting Dover’s water quality. In addition to the threat of bacteria and viruses entering groundwater and surface waters, excess nutrients (such as nitrogen) from septic systems can trigger algal blooms, which reduce oxygen in the water when they die, leading to illness or death of fish and other aquatic species. Some algal blooms even produce harmful toxins that can cause disease and even death to pets and humans.

We have enclosed a pamphlet put together by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services within information on how you can help protect New Hampshire’s drinking water resources and ensure your continued enjoyment of all the benefits our surface waters offer, such as swimming, fishing, boating, eating seafood and enjoying a walk beside clear waters, by taking care of your system.

Dover hopes that by sharing these resources we are able to collectively reduce groundwater pollution and improve water quality as a whole within our community. If you have any further questions or would like more information about Dover’s efforts, please reach out to me at (603) 516-6450 (g.young@dover.nh.gov).

Thank you,

Gretchen Young, PE

Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures: NHDES Get Pumped! pamphlet