

### ***Wastewater Plant***

To the editor: Regarding your front-page story of last Thursday, Aug. 6, "River Association seeks to halt wastewater plant," *you bet we do!*

Here's why: *Kent News*

The land in question, on Bungay Creek, will not perc. Therefore, we regard this private sewage treatment plant as a way to beat zoning laws -- a way to develop land that should not be developed. *B/3/P?*

The proposed plant is a sophisticated mechanism that requires constant monitoring and maintenance. Without that, it will fail and end up polluting Bungay Creek.

Ironically, as your story noted, these plants will be illegal on private lands statewide as of Oct. 1 -- less than two months from now! How very sad if Kent County ends up with one.

The Chester River Association has several other reasons we believe this system should not be built.

Kent County's comprehensive plan states: "The county desires to avoid the proliferation of these systems and shall not permit these systems merely to allow property owners to develop previously undevelopable properties."

Could that be any more clear?

In granting the construction permit for this plant, the Maryland Department of the Environment states: "The proposed treatment plant is a non-conventional system that has not been installed in the State of Maryland for residential use for treating and disposing an average of 250 gallons per day to a maximum of 450 gallons per day of wastewater. Since the design... is not a 'proven' technology and is experimental, MDE highly recommends that the system be monitored as frequently as needed for treatment optimization and operation flexibility."

Who will do the monitoring? The residential owner, according to the permit.

And, finally, in the same permit, MDE states: "The structural adequacy and expected performance characteristics of the various components are not certified by this permit."

Does that give you confidence? It certainly doesn't satisfy the Chester River Association.

Tom Leigh  
Chester Riverkeeper