

Credit And User Charge Considerations
Relating To Septage Disposal At Publicly Owned Wastewater
Treatment Facilities
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- **Credit.** Unless more than 10% of the cost of the facilities was directly related to the cost of constructing the septage disposal facilities and/or the incremental cost of providing capacity, this is not likely to create an impediment to a municipality obtaining financing
- **User Fees.** This is the real issue. To the extent there is even a small incremental cost associated with septage disposal this must initially be borne by the users who are connected to the sanitary sewer system,
- **Winners and Losers.** Some municipalities, often those with the lowest user charges, are successful in recovering costs through septage disposal charges. However, the communities with the highest unit costs are, due to market forces, less likely to attract septage disposal and its associated income.
- **Solutions?** If a municipality is subject to a state mandate to provide for septage disposal, it only seems reasonable that there be some form of minimum compensation to at least cover the capital costs associated with this mandate. Possible sources could include:
 - a rebate from the state's environmental improvement fund for any loans associated with this service
 - some form of user fee applying to all private septic or holding tank systems within some defined service area for which the municipality must provide service.

