

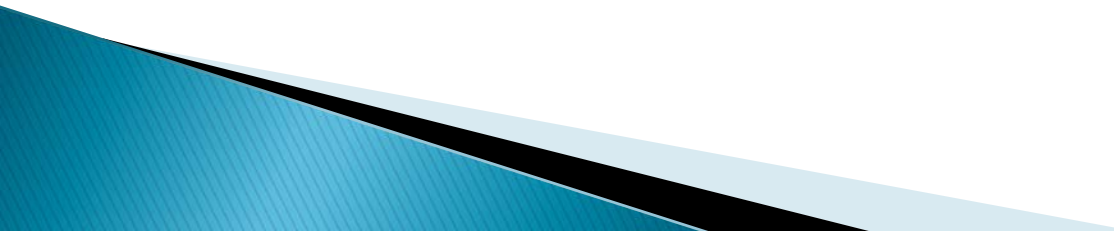
Proposed 2013 STAC Workshop:

**In my Backyard: An Innovative look  
at the Advances of Onsite  
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment**

Glynn Rountree, NAHB  
for the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup



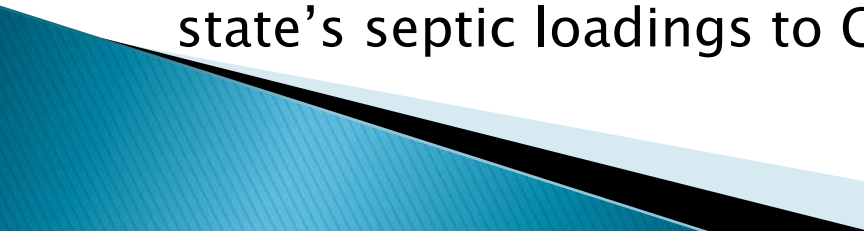
## **In my backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems**

- ▶ 2012 proposal to STAC not funded
  - ▶ 2013 proposal submitted to STAC on March 1, 2013
  - ▶ Need for the workshop:
    - A major change is taking place in how states must manage and account for the nitrogen from onsite wastewater treatment systems, both existing systems and new systems
    - The results of the workshop should benefit states, localities, regulators, developers of residential communities, and their consultants in their need to provide new homes and, at the same time, meet water quality goals
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- ▶ I think of onsite decentralized wastewater treatment systems as divided into 2 types:
  - 1. Traditional systems that serve a single residence with a single drain field
    - Can be upgraded to “Best Available Technology” systems
  - 2. “Cluster systems” that serve small communities of residences
    - Cluster systems are each unique in design; professionally managed, well monitored, and permitted
    - Preserve open space and fit in with LID and ESD principles
    - Construction can be “phased in” to add capacity and thus serve additional nearby communities
    - Can be the best septic solution for some building projects

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- ▶ “Smart Growth” principles act to push new growth into urban areas, but not all new growth will take place in urban areas – so decentralized onsite systems will continue to be used in some new residential projects
  - ▶ Historically, decentralized wastewater systems that are well-maintained have served residential communities well
  - ▶ New wastewater technologies will continue to surface and need to be considered, such as “no-mix” toilet bowls
  - ▶ The results from the workshop should be especially helpful to the Chesapeake Bay states as they consider the best regulatory solutions to the onsite systems portion of their state’s septic loadings to Chesapeake Bay
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- ▶ NAHB is willing to be a workshop partner and, if it would be helpful, offers its assistance in setting up the workshop

# **Proposed 2013 STAC Workshop**

Thank You.

Questions?

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