

II. INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to assist local government officials, elected leaders, municipal staff – such as highway and department of public works officials – and boards – such as Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeal. It is intended to help them recognize the roles that municipalities can play in the protection of water resources, in assessing local capacity and effectiveness of controlling nonpoint source pollution, and outline the consistency with which their current local laws reflect those of GP 02-01, the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, one of two components which are commonly referred to together as “Stormwater Phase II Regulations.” GP 02-02, the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4s), is the other component of Phase II Stormwater regulations and will not be dealt with directly in this report. Both General Permits are administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The report has been structured in the following manner:

Chapter III of the report, *Water and Land: A Background*, provides a summary of the major concepts associated with water degradation and protection.

Chapter IV, *Overview of the Regulatory Framework for the Protection of Water Resources*, provides a comprehensive summary of the various local, state and federal entities that are involved in regulating and managing natural resources. The chapter concludes with a brief overview of several pertinent New York State Environmental Conservation Laws which local officials should be familiar with.

Chapter V of the report, *What Can Be Done at the Local Level: Tools You Can Use*, provides a synopsis of issues that municipalities should consider when reviewing their local laws for relevance to water resource protection.

Finally, **Chapter VI**, *Assessment and Gap Analysis of Local Laws*, presents the findings of a gap analysis which was conducted using the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s “Preliminary Local Codes Assessment Worksheet.” Each worksheet begins with a short explanation of findings for the respective municipality.

Final reports distributed to the Seneca County SWCD and the NYS SWCC will be unabridged and contain the worksheets for all 12 municipalities in the county; municipalities will receive an abridged version of this report which will contain only the worksheet for their respective municipality.

MAP 2.1: OVERVIEW OF SENECA COUNTY

