Trace levels of volatile organic compounds have been determined in some of the Yarmouth municipal wells. These chemicals are likely to be the result of the cleaning of clogged septic systems with products containing synthetic organic chemicals. Alternatives include better maintenance of systems, Title 5 septic system upgrades and hydrogen peroxide treatment or physical cleaning for clogged systems. To minimize the risk of future contamination of ground water by septic cleaners, the Board of Health adopts the following regulation:

Authority: This regulation is adopted by the Yarmouth Board of Health under the auspices of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, section 31.

Purpose: To protect the ground water used for drinking water purposes from contamination resulting from the use of septic cleaners containing toxic and hazardous constituents.

The groundwater underlying this Town is the sole source of its existing and future water supply, including drinking water;

The groundwater aquifer is integrally connected with and flows into, the surface waters, lakes, ponds, streams, and coastal estuaries, which constitute significant recreational and economic resources of the Town, used for bathing and other water-related recreation, including shellfishing and fishing;

The foregoing conclusions are confirmed by findings set forth as follows:


3. By the report entitled Chemical Contamination (September, 1979), prepared by the Special Legislative Commission on Water Supply, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Prohibition: The storage, use, sale, or disposal of septic cleaners containing
synthetic organic chemicals is prohibited.

Variance: Variance from this regulation may be granted by the Board of Health only if the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that: (1) enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice and (2) the applicant must also prove to the Board of Health that the storage, use, sale, or disposal of septic cleaners will not have a significant adverse effect on public and/or private drinking water resources, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, and any other body of water.

This regulation is to take effect on the date of publication of this notice. 4/7/89

Charles Van Riper, Chairman

Virginia Robinson, Vice Chairman

Robert Tilley, Clerk

Herbert Schnitzer

Barrie Cliff

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Effective Date of Regulation: April 7, 1989

Certified to D.E.Q.E. Lakeville, Date: April 11, 1989

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Certified to D.E.Q.E./DWPC/Boston/7th Floor-Central Register/B.O.H. Regulation, Date: April 11, 1989

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