

From: [Kenneth Rancourt](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comment on the Mt Wash Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:29:53 PM

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Dear Commission Members,

I would like to make comments with reference to Sections F and G, Water and Waste and Energy, Efficiency, and Sustainability, respectively. As a matter of reference, I was fortunate to be able to live on the summit for three decades and am well aware of logistical issues there.

With respect to Waste in particular, it would be unfortunate if in the near future the Commission and State Parks Management did not fully consider partnering with the Mount Washington Cog Railway in the next phase of their operations. Assuming their Lizzie's effort proceeds, and they do install a septic line to that location, the proper design of that line could relieve Parks from considerable expense in the future. The considerable cost of maintaining an arctic style septic system over time on the summit is not necessary. Partnering with the Cog on this issue would eliminate the need to deal with any septic issues on the summit. A modern and properly designed pumping system, with septic fields at the base not impacting any arctic vegetation and eliminating the transport of compressed solid waste from the summit would increase efficiency, reduce electrical heating costs to minimum, and be more reliable. Systems like this are known to function in mountain environments.

Given that funds are already approved for improvements to the summit waste treatment system the installation of new tanks can proceed without delay. What would change would be the method of waste disbursement. Some would say that it is too late to change the plan. I would suggest that when new information is attained (in this case the Lizzy's' effort by the Cog) any corporation or entity would take advantage of new possibilities.

Again with regard to efficiency, considering the 40,000 gallons of waste storage at the summit being installed under the current contract, the summit staff (both Observatory and State Parks Staff) would be unlikely to fill that storage over the course of the dead of winter. Hence, there is no need of an arctic style system that requires significant electricity for heating during the winter months, no need for higher level of staffing (read higher salaries due to septic waste management certifications and related training), and limits the impact on the summit ecological environment.

I would certainly encourage those responsible to craft a comprehensive spreadsheet of costs related to the system operation over a period of ten years to understand the impact of a design change that can only decrease costs in the future and help preserve the mountain environment at the same time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kenneth L. Rancourt
Summit experience 1979 thru 2012