



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

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To: Ralph Mollis – Town Manager, Town Council Members

From: Tim Cranston, Director of Water Supply

Re: Summary Report, Asterra Satellite Leak Detection

Attached you will find a summary report from Asterra Technologies which details the results of their initial full scale satellite leak detection program for the North Kingstown Water Department. All 181 miles of pipeline in the North Kingstown Water Department's infrastructure were scanned by satellite on three separate satellite flyovers and based on the combination of these three data sets, a number of specific points of interest (POI) were identified for physical inspection by Asterra's field teams. The field teams physically inspected the identified POI's and located 18 confirmed leaks as a result. Of these 18 leaks, 14 were found to be associated with infrastructure under the responsibility of the water department and 4 were identified as homeowner leaks. The Water department has already repaired about 60% of the identified leaks and intends to have repairs to the remaining leaks accomplished within the next two months. The four homeowners were notified, and the Department will work with them to expedite those repairs.

Asterra staff has quantified not only the actual lost volumes from the identified leaks, but also the lost revenues represented by that volume. The 1.8 million gallons per year of lost water equates to \$130,332 in potential lost revenue due to these non-surfacing water leaks. Based on the \$85,500 total cost for Asterra's services this represents a payback period or ROI of less than 8 months.

As you have been made aware, past traditional leak detection efforts have been ineffective, due to the fact that our water mains are largely made of non-metallic materials. The new technology utilized by Asterra which keys in on actual leaking water in the soils adjacent to the water mains rather than "leak sound" transmission carried through the water mains to surface features like valves and fire hydrants, is a much more effective way to identify leaks. The Water Department will work with Asterra to develop an appropriate plan moving forward to continue to scan our distribution system for leaks.