



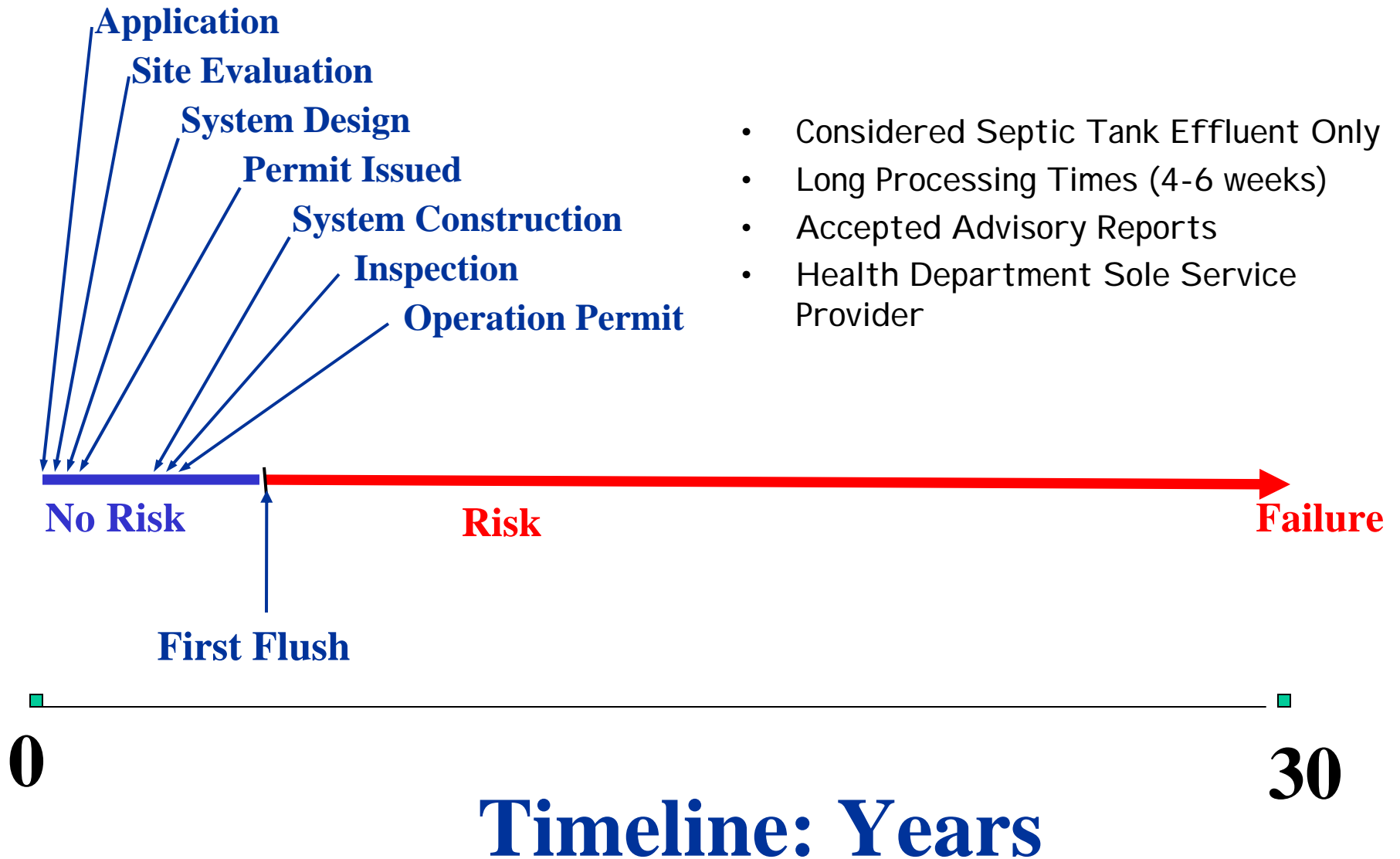
*Private Sector*

**Virginia's  
Future Onsite  
Sewage &  
Water Program**

*Health Department*

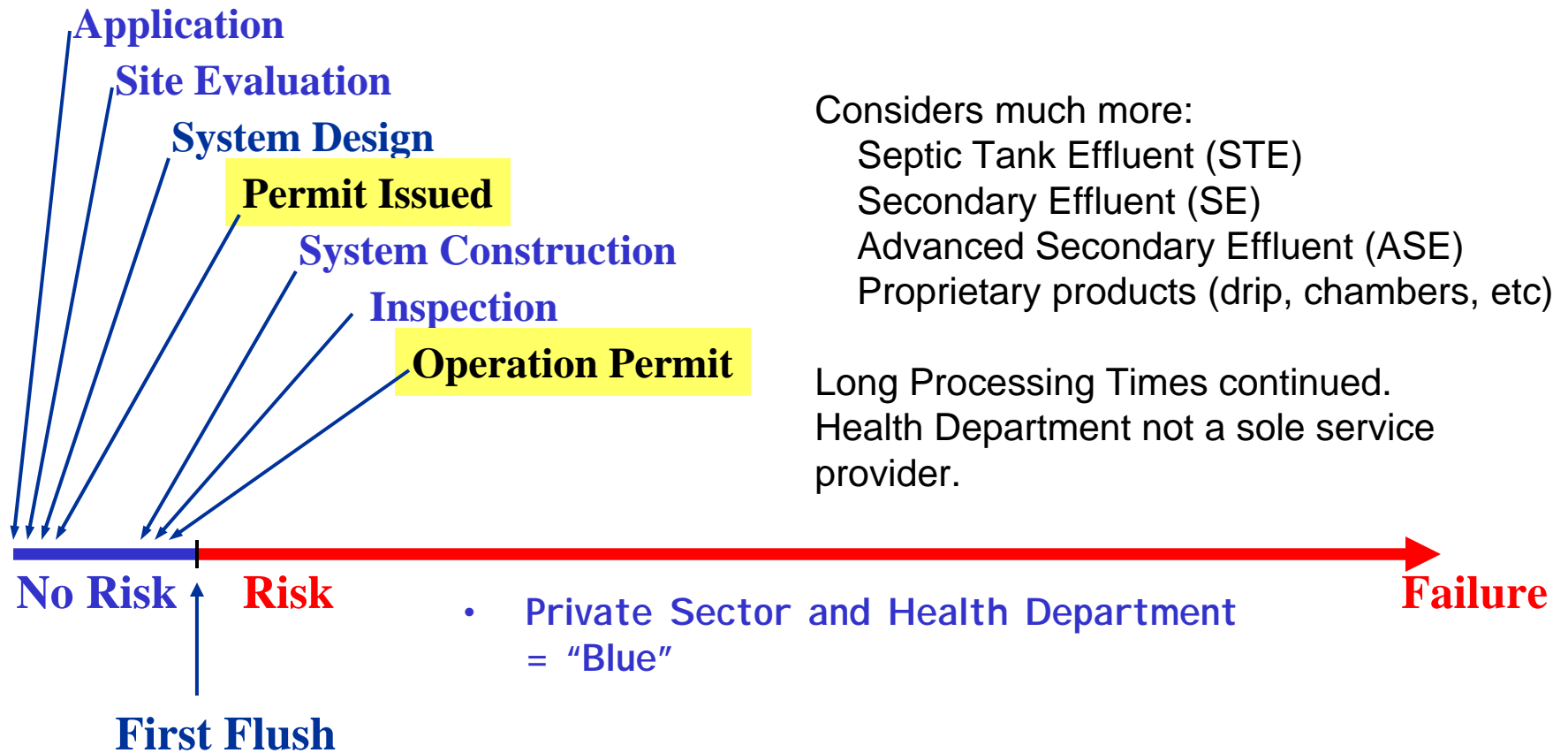
**Presentation by: Dwayne Roadcap  
Program Manager, DOSWS  
Virginia Department of Health**

# Virginia's Program before 1999:



- Considered Septic Tank Effluent Only
- Long Processing Times (4-6 weeks)
- Accepted Advisory Reports
- Health Department Sole Service Provider

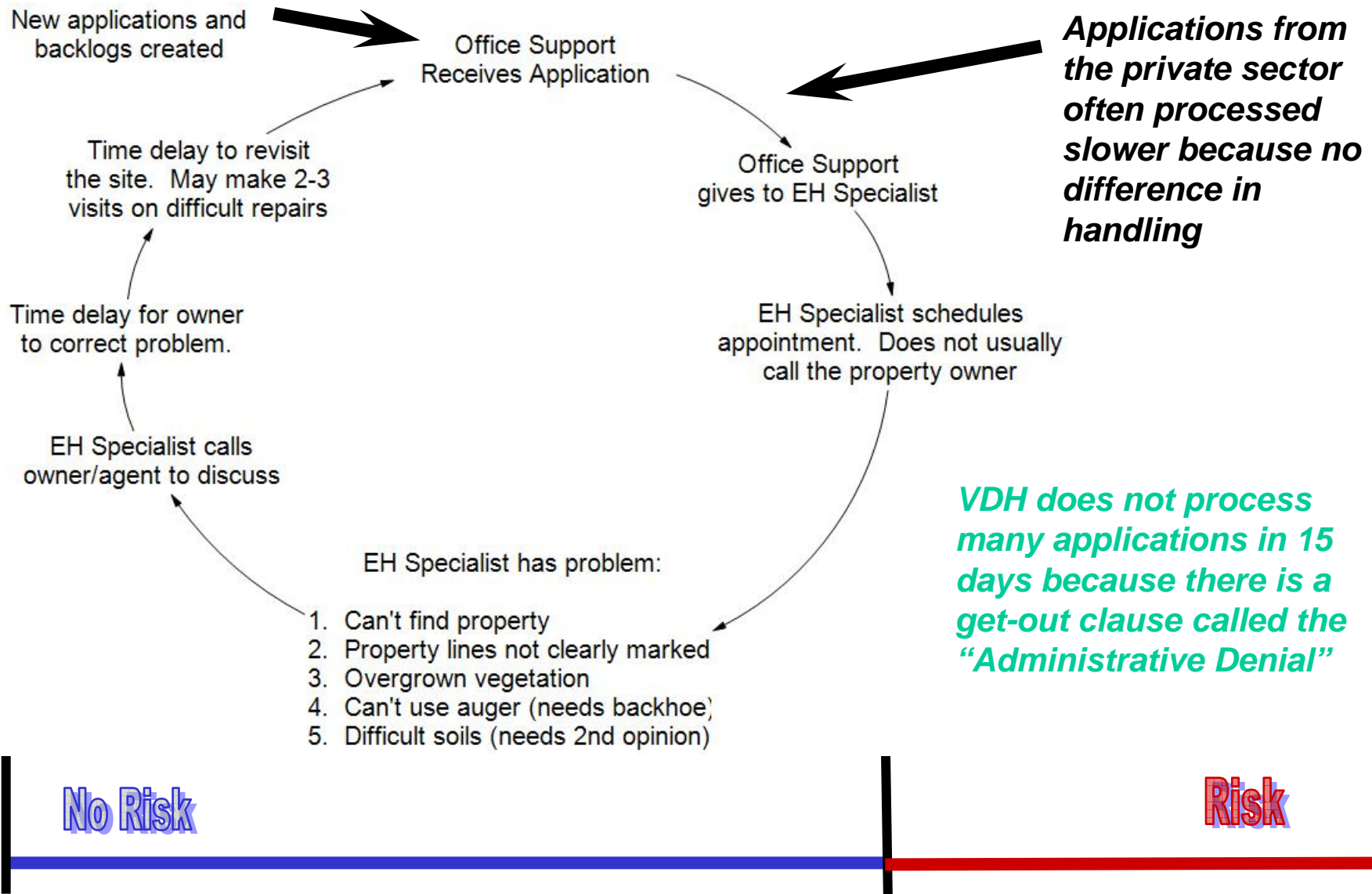
# Virginia's Program after 1999:



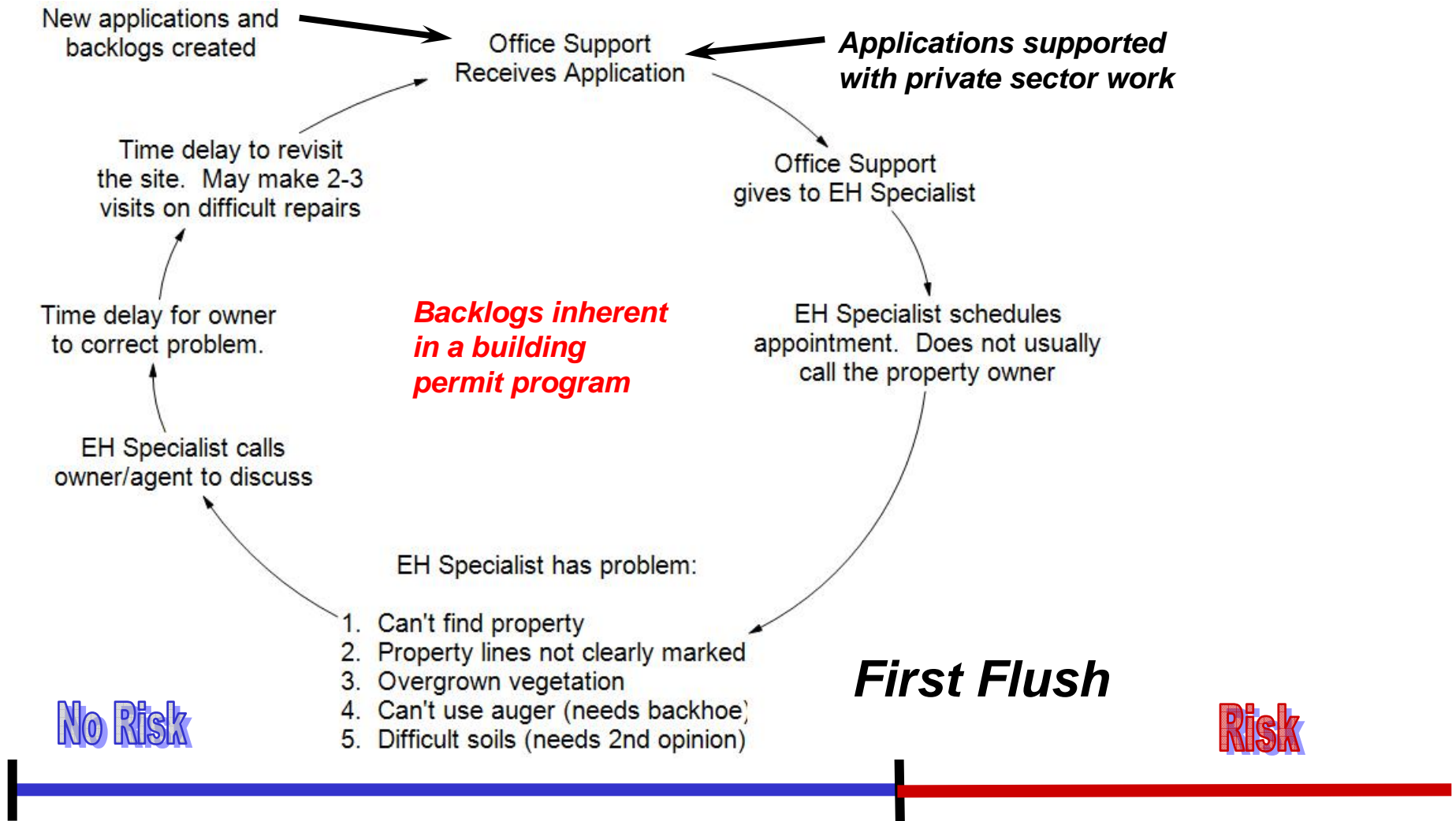
***What changed?***

***New legislation and more complexity in design options***

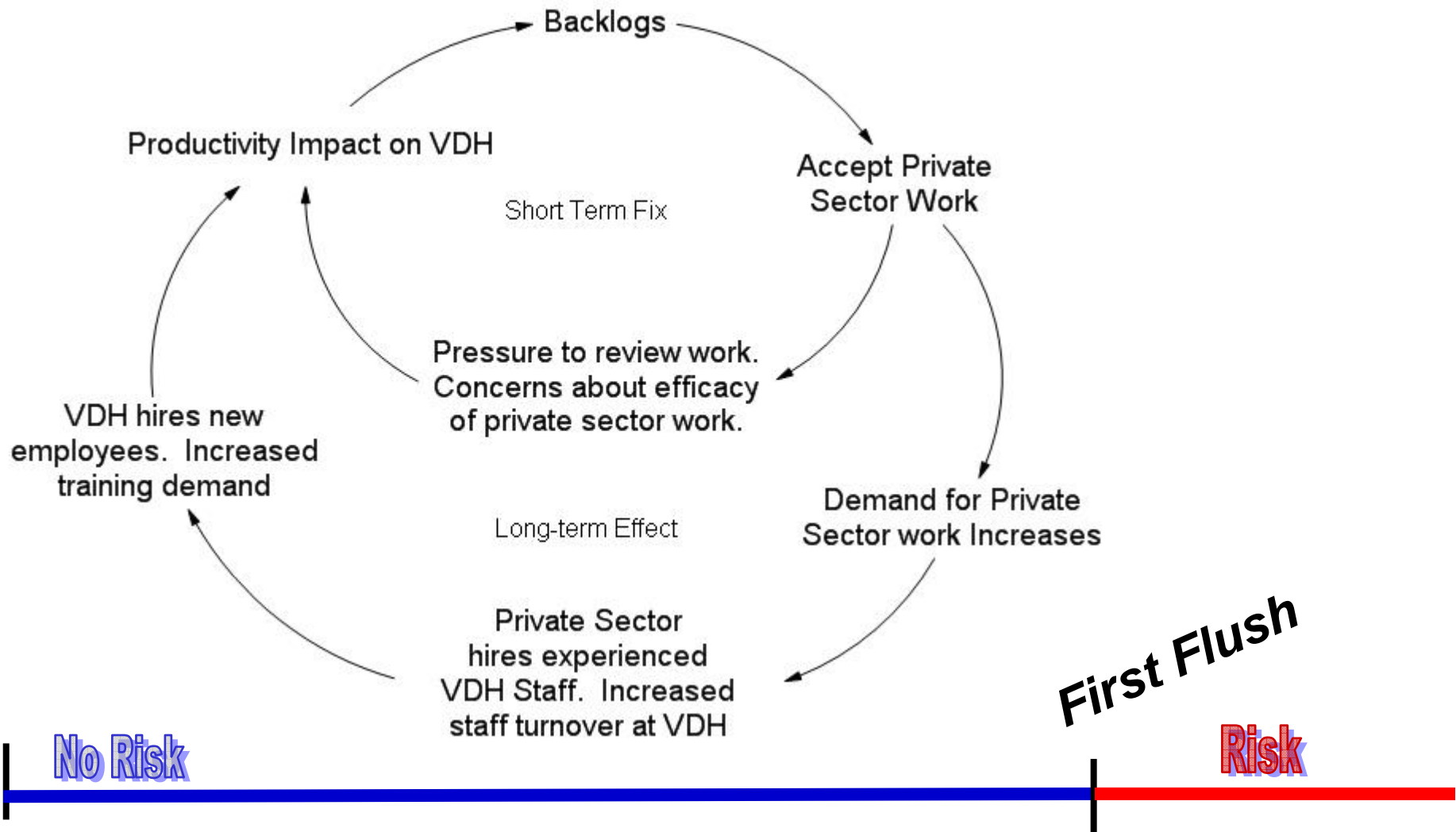
# Virginia's Onsite Sewage Program before and after 1999:



# Why haven't backlogs improved? Why won't backlogs improve?



# Addressing the Backlog Problem: **Unintended Consequences**



*Since 2000, VDH has trained 175 new employees from a total staff level of 350, over 50% turnover in five years. Of the newly trained employees, 38% have already left. Since 1999, 52 experienced employees have also left VDH Employment.*

# Addressing the Backlog Problem:

**Focus on processing applications.**

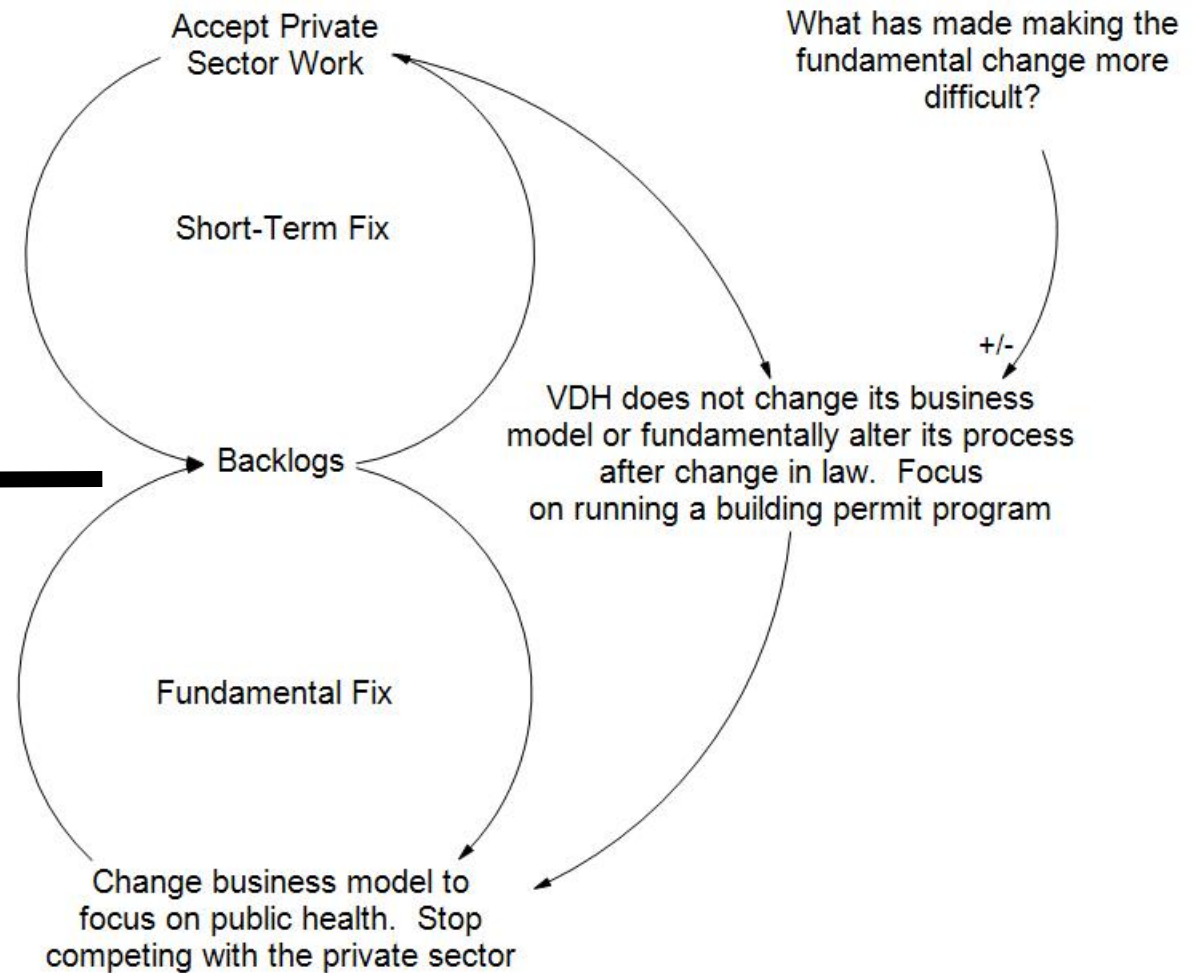
**Backlogs is the problem.**

**Focus on 10 Essential Public Health Services.**

**• Principal Challenges**

**• Data collection and use**

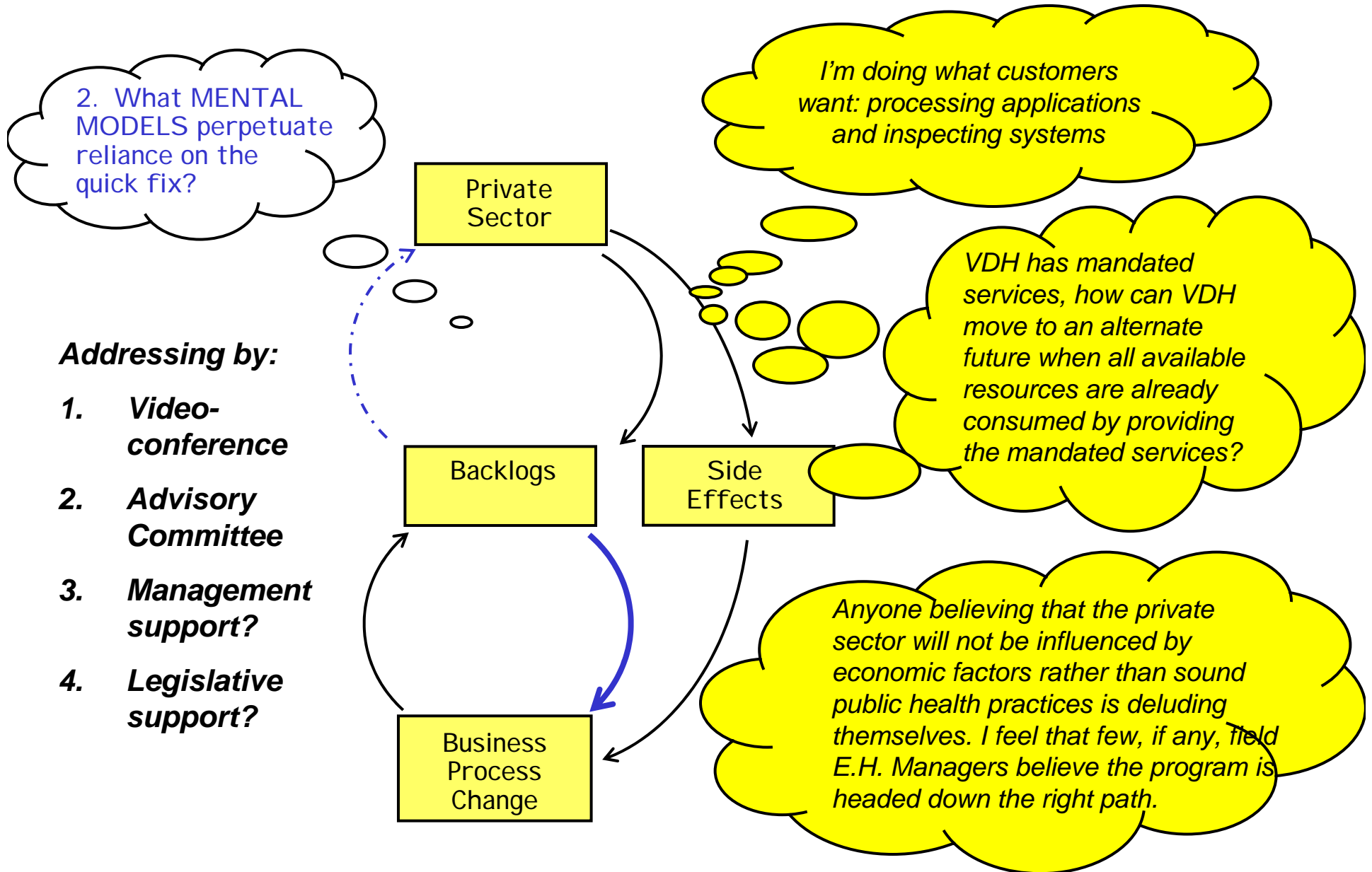
**• Evaluation**



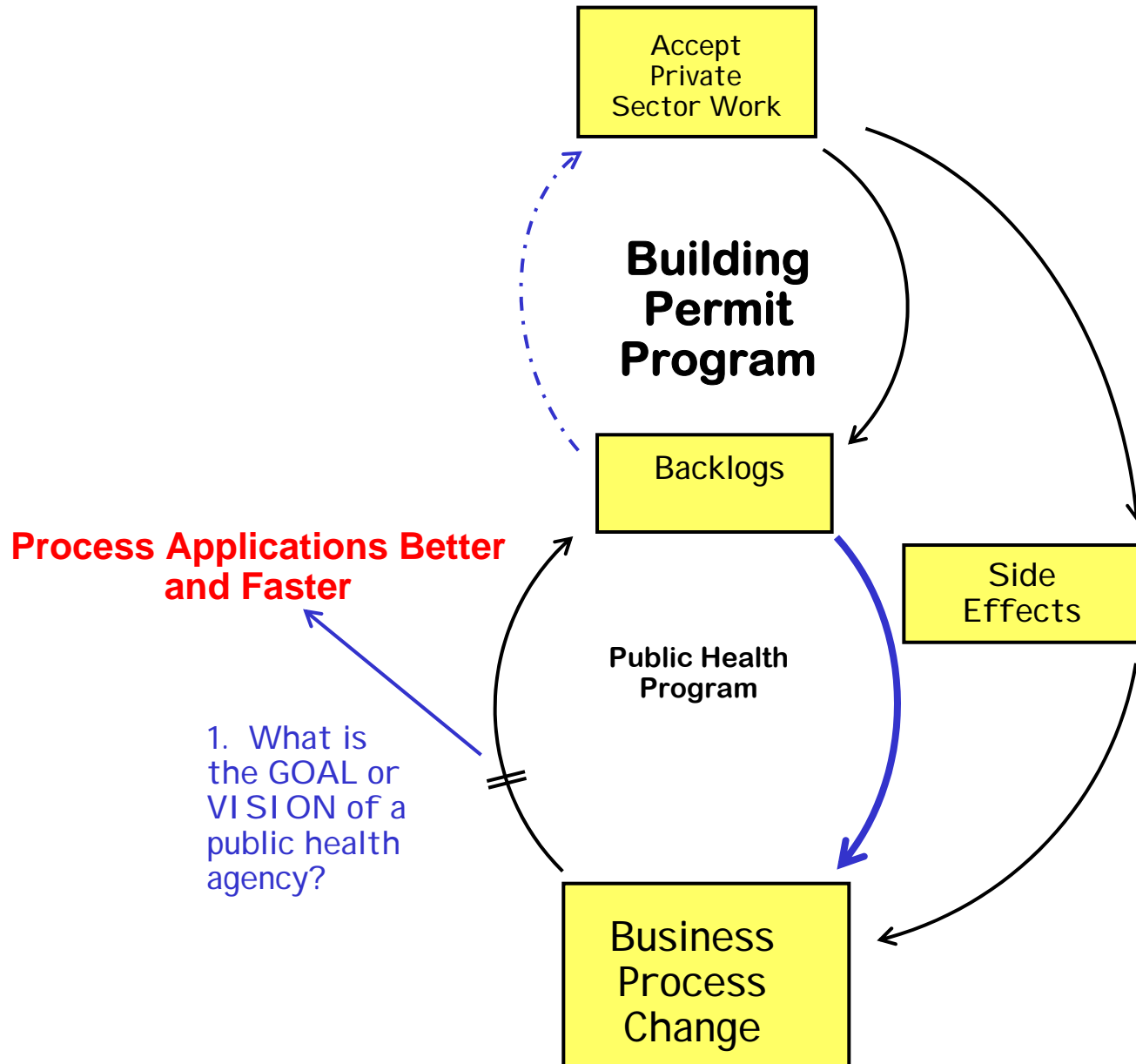




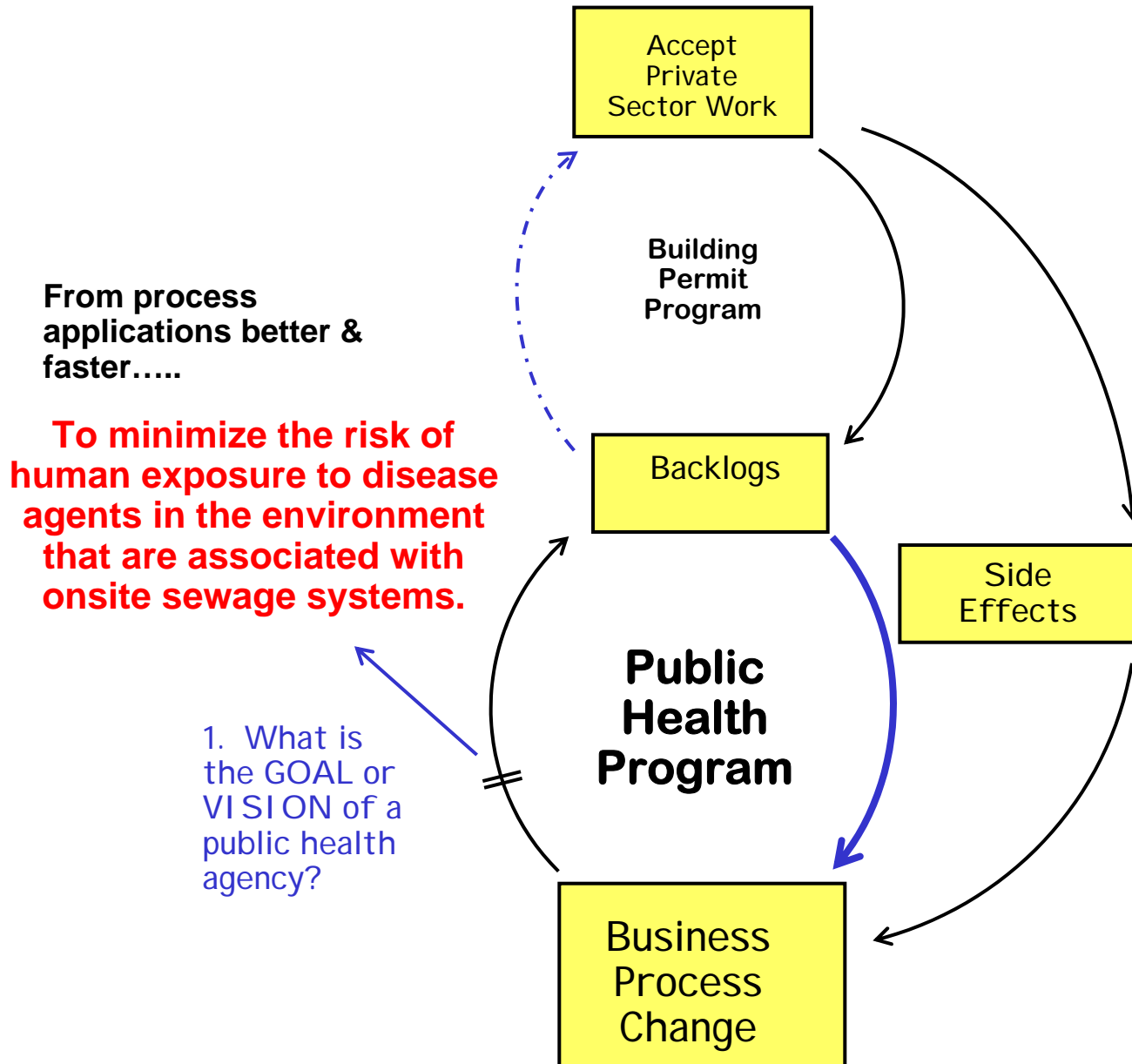
# Where would effort best be spent to move to the long-term solution?



# Addressing the Issues

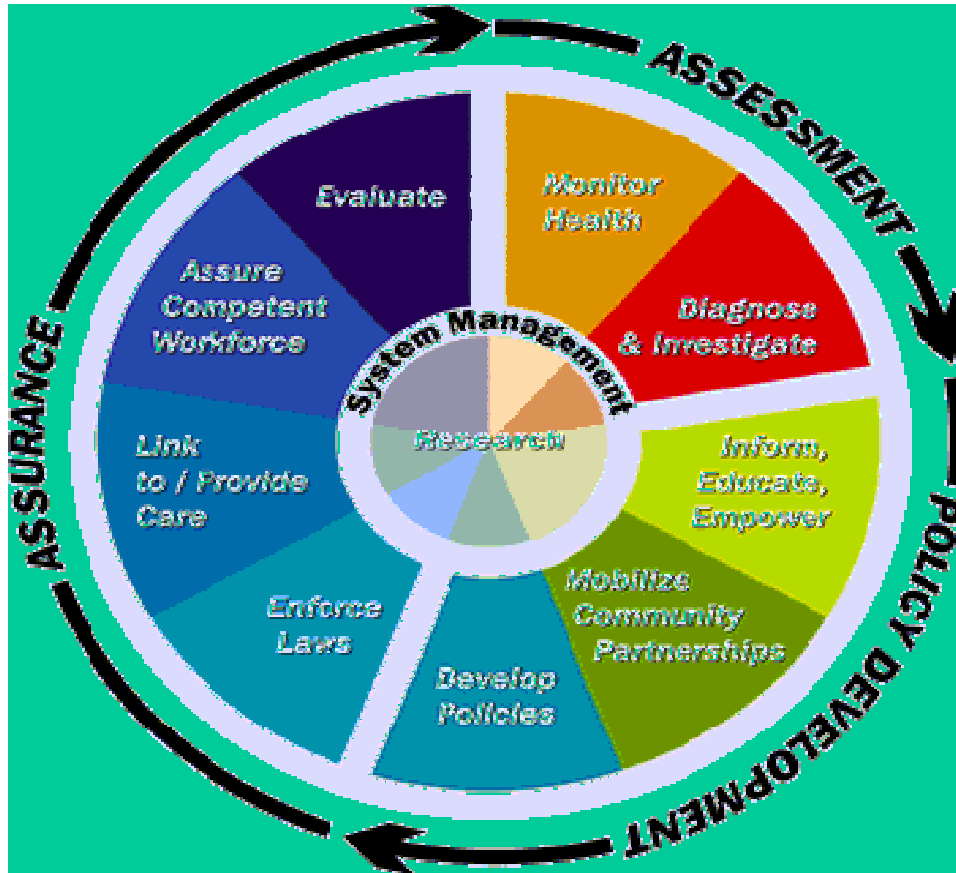


# Addressing the Issues



# Virginia's Onsite Sewage Program:

- If it's really a building permit program with elements of health and safety, then what would a public health program look like?



## The good news:

*VDH's basic law gives agency the flexibility to run the program as it views necessary. The law does not say how VDH will accomplish its mission to protect public health and groundwater supplies*





## Next Steps:

- Completing the VDH Re-engineering study from a private consultant.
- Building capacity within VDH to implement a new program goal using the 10 Essential Services as a means to achieve the goal.
- Adjusting VDH training to emphasize the 10 Essential Services and how staff can better manage risks from onsite sewage systems.
- Improving collaboration and networking with private sector service providers to assure that direct delivery of service is adequately performed in a timely manner.
- Developing a new set of regulations to reflect the agency's future roles and responsibilities along with anticipated future roles and responsibilities for private sector service providers.
- Building capacity in the private sector to assure that adequate and timely delivery of service is available to the public.

## ***Aligning VA's Onsite Sewage and Water Program with National Goals & Objectives:***

- 1. Communicate & Market*** *(Improve information sharing)*  
*(Gather data & analyze)*
- 2. Develop the Workforce*** *(Train staff for new tasks)*  
*(Focus on 10 Essential Services)*
- 3. Build capacity*** *(Move away from service delivery toward assessment, policy development, and assurance)*
- 4. Develop Strategic Partnerships***  
*(Promote activities that promote collaboration)*  
*(Develop regular communication with stakeholders)*