

Fort Wayne Allen County Department of Health

Onsite Sewage Update

Presented to Fort Wayne Area Association
Realtors

January 21, 2004

By

Gary Chapple, REHS



Changes in Onsite Allen County

- Surface discharge regulations
- ISDH proposed rule



Surface Discharge Basics of the Law

- Allows Allen County to issue construction permits for residential surface discharge systems if specific criteria are met
- Requires the County to establish an Onsite Waste Management District in order to utilize surface discharge systems
- Requires IDEM to issue a general permit for residential surface discharge systems

Surface Discharge Implementation

- Allen County Commissioners established the Allen County Onsite Wastewater Management District July 7, 2003
- IDEM promulgated Rule 14 general permit (effective January 17, 2004)
- FW – AC Department of Health looked at examples of both surface discharge permits and management systems (and is setting up forms and O & M procedures)

Management District ACOWMD

- District is county-wide (municipalities may opt in)
- Every new system installed after July 7, 2003 falls under district's management
- Public hearing for fees ordinance 1/28/2004
- Different fees and requirements depending on the system
- Public oversight of private inspection/maintenance
- Health department will still issue construction permit

ACOWMD

Proposed Fees and Requirements

- All newly installed systems \$150 one time fee, plus
- Gravity systems \$150/3 years – proof of maintenance and inspection to renew
- Mechanical systems \$150/2 years - proof of maintenance and inspection to renew
- Pretreatment systems \$100/ year – maintain contract with service provider to renew
- Surface discharge systems \$150/ year – maintain contract with service provider to renew

Rule 14 General Permit

Parameters to be Monitored

- Effluent flow – GPD (May be estimated)
- Temperature – Report (degrees C.)
- CBOD₅ – 15 mg/l max (2 x Annually)
- TSS – 18 mg/l max (2 x Annually)
- Ammonia-nitrogen – 2 mg/l max (2 x Annually)
- pH – 6.0 min, 9.0 max (2 x Annually)
- DO Winter – 5.0 mg/l min (Annually)
- DO Summer – 4.0 mg/l min (Annually)
- E-coli – 235 cfu/100ml max (Quarterly)
- Total Residual Chlorine, Final – 0.06 mg/l max (Q)

Surface Discharge – Do You Qualify ?

- Only available to existing homes
- Soil test needed to verify soil absorption system is not an option
- Proposed system must have test data available to demonstrate it will meet limits
- Service contract required for the life of the system
- Sampling requirements will be ongoing
- Designed to be a system of last resort

ISDH Proposed Rule 410 IAC 6-8.2

- Scheduled for final adoption March 10, 2004
- Proposed effective date March 1, 2005
- Many changes from the draft version
- More closely resembles the WWMC version
- Nitrate impact reduced and moved to 2010
- Much of the Drainage chapter was removed
- Soil loading rate table was reworked

ISDH Proposed Rule

410 IAC 6-8.2

Changes From Current Rule

- Requires two compartment septic tanks for residential systems unless oversized filter used
- Separate Rule (30) and Tech Spec (103) pages
- Tech Spec spells out many construction details that are currently being practiced
- Requires outlet filters on all systems
- Plan submittal requirements increased – in Allen County biggest change is on repairs
- Scale drawings or sketch and staked out

ISDH Proposed Rule

410 IAC 6-8.2

Changes From Current Rule

- Soil absorption field must not be used for intensive – use recreational space, cultivation for harvest, or livestock
- Entire chapter devoted to experimental and alternative technology onsite systems
- Reduction factor for deeper soils has been eliminated
- Built into the soil load rate table by parent material
- Loading rates reduced for some common Allen County soils

What Message Can You Help Us Pass on to Homeowners ?

- Become informed about how your wastewater is treated
- Recognize that discharging improperly treated wastewater to the ground surface, or to surface water is an unacceptable environmental and public health hazard
- Talk to your neighbors about addressing the problems in the area

What Message Can You Help Us Pass on to Homeowners ?

- Recognize all forms of sewage treatment have a maintenance cost that must be planned for
- Don't wait until there is a crisis, this allows time to research the best alternative for everyone
- Contact the health department or regional sewer district for information or assistance in coordinating cluster/community projects

What Message Can You Help Us Pass on to Homeowners ?

- Remember – there is no such thing as sewage disposal
- All wastewater is recycled and reused
- It is just a question of when, where and how much treatment it receives before it comes around again

Gary Chapple, REHS

Fort Wayne – Allen County

Department of Health

1 East Main St.

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

260-449-7695

gary.chapple@co.allen.in.us