



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Brown County Department of Health

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Brown County Regional Sewer District

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INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

In an area within a radius of 3 ½ miles from the intersection of SR 45 and 135 North we have 2904 properties.

Of the 2904 properties, 2002 have buildings or residences that require a septic system.

According to a report from the Assessor's Office, the average build date was 1960. This means the average age of the septic systems is 58 years old.

The first State Septic Code, HSE 25, was in effect from Nov. 18, 1977 to Dec 21, 1990. Based on this information it would be logical to conclude that the average septic system in this defined area does not meet today's standards.

In addition, based on the fact that the average system is over 50 years old, it would only be fair to assume many may not be functioning as originally planned and in fact may be failing, as defined by State Code 410 IAC 6-8.3.

410 IAC 6-8.3-33 defines failure as:

Sec.33 "Residential onsite sewage system failure" means a residential onsite system that exhibits one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) The onsite sewage system refuses to accept sewage at the rate of design application thereby interfering with the normal use of the residential plumbing fixtures.

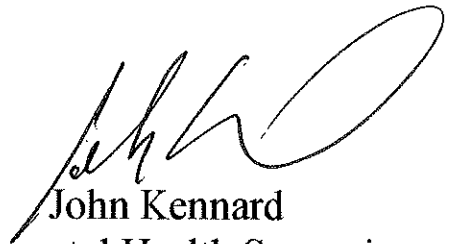
- (2) Effluent discharge exceeds the absorption capacity of the soil, resulting in ponding, seepage, or other discharge of the effluent to the ground surface or to surface waters.
- (3) Effluent is discharged from the onsite sewage system causing contamination of a potable water supply, ground water, or surface waters.

In addition, I have attached a documented history of water tests taken at various points and times throughout this area and found detectable levels of E. Coli in most bodies of water we tested. Although dated, I consider the results valid as we have made no adjustments in sewage collection that would lower these levels.

This situation is an environmental health disaster waiting to happen. The most viable solution is a sanitary sewer system.



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John Kennard
Environmental Health Supervisor