



RECESSIONAL MORAINES SOIL NOTICE

On June 19, 2001, updated on July 18, 2001, and again with the most recent update on August 14, 2001, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) issued the attached suggested protocol for the siting of new and replacement on-site sewage systems (OSS) in Northeast Indiana, including Allen County. Because of the increase in premature failures we are now seeing in systems installed in Allen County, we must make some changes in our pre-construction requirements to protect homeowners as best we can from this problematic situation on their properties. The Allen County Department of Health is now **REQUIRING THAT MECHANICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOIL BE COMPLETED** when the types of soils mentioned in the attached protocol are found on a site being considered for a new/replacement system. If the mechanical analysis finds that the soil has a forty percent (40%) or higher clay content, then, you, as the Property Owner, are not required by law to follow the rest of the protocol, but it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**, by both ISDH and by this Department that you do follow the rest of the protocol – to protect your investment.

As the property owner, please understand the following important statements as they relate to on-site sewage systems in Allen County:

- This Department has documented failed OSSs which occurred within a matter of months after installation at sites where the property owners failed to follow this protocol. When this occurs, it can result in some disastrous situations for property owners (see 3rd bullet below).
- You as the Property Owner are responsible for notifying the soil consultant and system designer of your desire to follow the current version of the moraine soil protocol.
- You as the Property Owner are responsible for maintaining a properly functioning OSS. If your new or replacement OSS fails, you may be faced with four alternatives to remedy the issue:
 1. Connection to a nearby public sewer, if one is available.
 2. Repair or replace the OSS so it is no longer a risk to public health.
 3. Cap the septic tank and “pump and haul” the sewage on a continuous basis. This can be very expensive, generally requires water conservation measures to be exercised in the home, and is not necessarily a permanent measure that can be allowed.
 4. Abandon the premises as it is no longer habitable. This generally means the home/property cannot be sold.

Although there can never be a guarantee that an OSS will not fail soon after installation, the purpose of the Indiana State Department of Health’s suggested protocol is to *reduce the likelihood of failure*, so the homeowner is not left with the unfortunate situation where their only options are “pump and haul” or abandonment of the home.

We are available to answer any of your questions in this regard. Once you have read this document and asked all applicable questions, please check the applicable box below indicating your decision on whether or not you plan to follow the protocol, sign, date and return one of the two copies to this Department.

_____ I agree to follow/comply with the current version of the Moraine Soil Protocol.
_____ At this time, I decline to follow/comply with the Moraine Soil Protocol and understand the potential repercussions of that decision, as noted above.

Property Address: _____ Date: _____

Property Owner # 1 Printed Name: _____

Property Owner # 1 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Property Owner # 2 Printed Name: _____

Property Owner # 2 Signature: _____ Date: _____

A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED FORM MUST BE EMAILED TO ACDOH.POLLUTION.CONTROL@ALLENCOUNTY.US, MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESS NOTED ABOVE OR FAXED TO (260) 449-3010.