

TITLE 327 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

Rule Information Sheet

Septage Management
LSA Document #14-29

Overview

Septage comes from a variety of sources categorized as sewage disposal systems under IC 13-11-2-201. IC 13-18-12 authorizes IDEM to permit septage managers for cleaning sewage disposal systems and for the transport, treatment, storage, or disposal of septage. Under the current septage rules at 327 IAC 7.1, septage may be transported to and discharged directly into a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted publicly owned treatment works (POTW), disposed at a permitted municipal solid waste landfill, transported to a specifically designed septage storage or treatment facility, or land applied.

The Indiana General Assembly has made changes to IC 13-18-12 regarding septage management. IDEM has developed a draft rule that addresses these changes, including replacing "wastewater" with "septage" throughout 327 IAC 7.1, removing the vehicle licensing requirements, and changing record keeping requirements when cleaning portable sanitary units. IDEM is also proposing updates to the existing rules to add flexibility to septage transportation requirements, allow for alternate design, construction, or compliance, and to add phosphorus testing and standards, which may temporarily affect land application activities at a particular location. The draft rule also includes amendments to ensure the rules are consistent with the most current applicable state law, removes outdated language and forms, and reorganizes and revises language for improved clarity and understanding.

Affected Persons

Owners and operators of septage management facilities and transportation vehicles throughout Indiana.

Reasons for the Rule

IDEM is revising 327 IAC 7.1 to be consistent with the recent revisions to the Indiana Code, to provide flexibility for certain requirements and to update and clarify the existing language. Over application or having an excess of phosphorus in the soil can lead to ground water contamination or runoff. Excess phosphorus in surface or ground waters can lead to algal blooms in lakes, rivers, streams, and on down into the ocean. Phosphorus testing and standards are being added to prevent the land application of septage from contributing to excess phosphorus in the soil and preventing contamination of surface and ground waters.

Economic Impact of the Rule

The removal of the vehicle licensing requirements will have a positive fiscal impact on the regulated community. There will be a low fiscal impact to a small portion of regulated sources due to the addition of phosphorus testing requirements for land application of septage. The

phosphorus rules will require soil testing every three years when the permit is renewed; however, these tests are relatively low in cost.

Scheduled Board Action and Hearings*

First Public Hearing: August 14, 2019, Indiana Government Center 10 North Senate Avenue, Conference Room A, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Second Public Hearing: November 13, 2019*, Indiana Government Center 10 North Senate Avenue, Conference Room A, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

*This meeting date is tentative.

IDEM Contact

Additional information regarding this rulemaking action can be obtained from Krystal Hackney, Rules Development Branch, Office of Legal Counsel, (317) 232-3158, (800) 451-6027 (in Indiana), or khackney1@idem.IN.gov.