



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Protecting Hoosiers and Our Environment Since 1986



Pollution Prevention Lunch and Learn

Oil and Water Separators





Pollution Prevention Team

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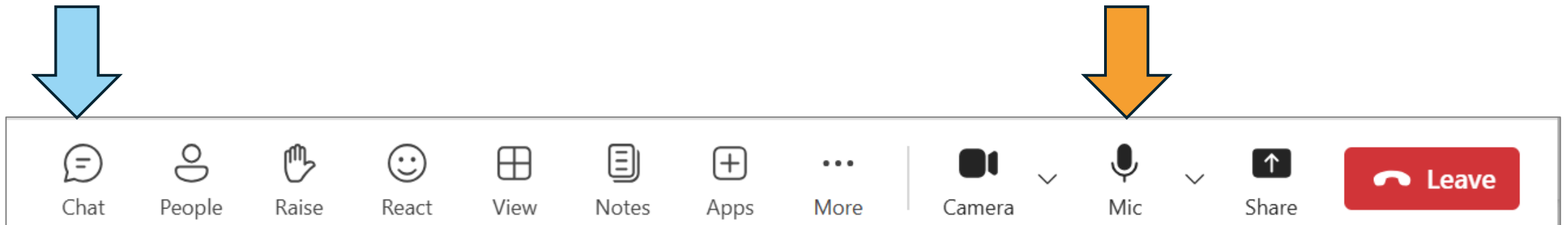




Housekeeping Items

Stay muted throughout the webinar.

Post your questions to the Chat to be answered during Q&A.





Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Oil and Water Separators Video Presentation
- Presentation of Materials
- Compliance and Technical Assistance Program Presentation
- Question and Answer Session
- Next Steps



Oil and Water Separator Video

https://youtu.be/b2cXVQ_bPzw



Info Sheet and Checklist



Pollution Prevention & Oil and Water Separator

Information Sheet



Background

Oil and water separators (OWS) are employed across a range of industries and are integral in ensuring clean, safe, and efficient practices. OWSs come in several shapes and sizes but most of them use gravity and the natural differences in the densities (weight) of oil and water to filter out oil and debris contamination. Regular cleaning and leak prevention help avoid the buildup of oil and sludge and ensure the most efficient operation of an OWS. Enacting preventative measures is the best way to manage pollution by stopping it at its source. Facilities should verify applicable local limits and any pretreatment equipment required by the POTW, such as oil-water separators.

Best Management Practices

Manage

Routine management of an OWS system is the best way to maintain it; below are the different checks you can do to ensure a clean and efficient OWS.

- **Daily Checks:** Daily checks should include a visual check around the parameter and key input/output areas of the OWS
- **Weekly Checks:** During weekly checks it's important to check the following: the point of output for any oil discharge bypassing the OWS, drains for unauthorized substances, and other points of interest like joints, connectors, hoses and mats, for leaks.

The actions outlined do not replace or ensure compliance with regulatory standards set by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). If regulatory or compliance assistance is needed, refer to IDEM's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP).

- **Quarterly Checks:** Quarterly checks go more in depth, considering the outside and the inside of the OWS. Using a long (usually about 8 feet) measuring stick, push it through the tank. Any resistance when reaching the bottom indicates sludge accumulation at the base of the separator.

Here is a simple equation you can complete when taking these measurements to determine if there is enough sludge or oil to act.

- A. Is the distance from rim of access cover to bottom of structure
- B. Is the distance from rim of access cover to top of sludge layer
- C. **Depth of sludge layer (C = A - B)**
- D. Is the distance from rim of access cover to the oil/water interface
- E. Distance from rim of access cover to the top of the liquid surface
- F. **Depth of oil layer (F = D - E)**

Depth of Sludge Calculator	
A Distance from rim of access cover to bottom of structure	
B Distance from rim of access cover to top of sludge layer	
C Depth of Sludge Layer	
Depth of Oil Layer Calculator	
D Distance from rim of access cover to oil/water interface	
E Distance from rim of access cover to top of liquid surface	
F Depth of Oil Layer	

These can be used to easily calculate the amount and percentage of buildup inside your OWS. Tracking this is important to determine how often you need to clean the tank. You can hire a cleaning company to remove the sludge and oil from the tank when sludge accumulates to 20% of the wetted height of the separator, oil accumulates to 5% of the wetted height of the separator, or when 75% of the retention capacity of the OWS is filled.

Oil and Water Separator Information Sheet



Pollution Prevention & Oil and Water Separator

Checklist



Background

This checklist serves as a resource for implementing the best management practices when utilizing an oil and water separator (OWS). The steps outlined in this list will preserve the life of an OWS and maintain its efficiency, reducing the likelihood of environmental damage, fines, inefficiency, and waste. Local Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) may have pretreatment or discharge requirements that are more restrictive than IDEM standards. Facilities should verify applicable local limits and any pretreatment equipment required by the POTW, such as oil-water separators.

Best Management Practices

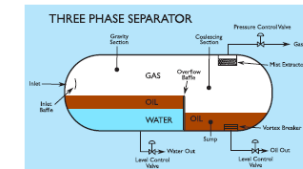
Identify

Daily Check List

- ☐ No leaks around the OWS
- ☐ No leaks present at inlet and outlet sections of OWS

Weekly Check List

- ☐ Daily checks have been completed
- ☐ No oily substances present at outlet of OWS
- ☐ No oily or unauthorized substances in or near drains
- ☐ No leaks present at joints and connecting sections of OWS



Quarterly Check List

- ☐ Daily and weekly checks have been completed
- ☐ Check oil and sludge layers inside of tank using measuring stick

To perform this measurement, insert the measuring stick or sludge judge vertically into the separator through the inspection port, withdraw it, and read the distinct sludge (bottom) and oil (top) layers from the sample. These thickness values will be used in the OWS calculator.

- ☐ Use IDEM's OWS calculator to calculate the amount of sludge, and/or oil present in the tank
- ☐ If any of the following are true, call your preferred cleaning professionals to empty and clean the tank:

- Sludge accumulates to 20% of the wetted height of the separator compartment
- Oil accumulates to 5% of the wetted height of the separator compartment
- 75% of the retention capacity of the OWS is filled
- ☐ Ensure that connecting pads or mats are not fully saturated

Yearly Check List

- ☐ Daily, weekly, and quarterly checks have been completed
- ☐ The tank has been cleaned at least once this year
- ☐ Filters, pads, mats, drains and other hardware have been replaced if needed

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Oil and Water Separator Checklist





Small Business Regulatory Coordinator



Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Program Support
Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Section



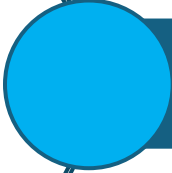


Compliance and Technical Assistance Program

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Helping Indiana businesses one step at a time





Free and Confidential

CTAP services are available to all sectors
of Indiana's regulated community at
NO COST!

CTAP offers environmental regulatory assistance to
Indiana businesses and organizations of **ALL** sizes and
types including:

- Existing facilities with legacy issues.
- New companies looking to locate in Indiana.
- Government agencies.
- Trade associations, industry groups, environmental consultants, and other interested stakeholders.

Non-Regulatory

CTAP staff are **NOT** regulators and do not have regulatory authority to issue violations, permits, fees, fines, or take enforcement actions.

Those who receive CTAP services will **NOT** be penalized for reporting relevant environmental information to CTAP when requesting assistance.

CTAP Services

CTAP Hotline
and Online
Portal

Site
Assessments

Training

Online
Resources

Contact CTAP to:

- Receive timely assistance with interpreting a rule or permit requirement.
- Determine what steps are needed to obtain a permit to operate or modify processes.
- Ask general environmental regulatory or compliance questions
- Request a site assessment.

Submit a confidential request via CTAP's online portal:

portal.idem.IN.gov.

Or call our hotline: 317-232-8172 or 800-988-7901

CTAP Services

Site assessments

A site assessment is a free on-site consultation to observe and evaluate operations and determine environmental regulatory obligations, current compliance status, and identify potential pollution prevention opportunities.

CTAP staff can help troubleshoot a particular process or regulation or conduct an entire facility review. CTAP site assessments may be in-person or virtual.

CTAP Staff

- **Northwest Regional Office:**
 - 1 – John Hudson
- **Northern Regional Office:**
 - 2 – Hannah Hack
- **Indianapolis Central Office:**
 - 3 – Mark Stoddard
 - 4 – Leigh Anne Harvey
 - 5 – Chrystal Wagner
 - 6 – Hani Sharaya
- **Southwest Regional Office:**
 - 7 – Tammy Haug
- **Southeast Regional Office:**
 - 8 – Susan Raisor



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CTAP Staff

Confidential online portal: portal.idem.IN.gov
Toll-free hotline (800)-988-7901 or (317)-232-8172
**Assigned by Region / County*

Northwest Regional Office:

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Northern Regional Office:

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Indianapolis Central Office:

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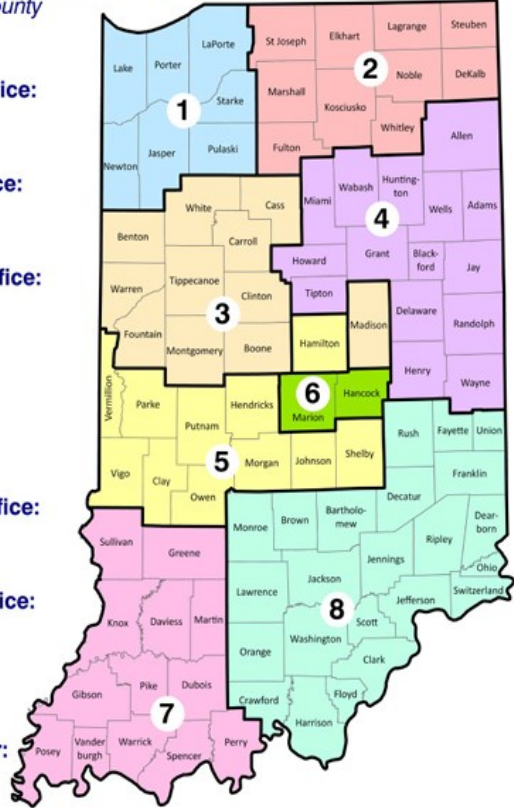
Southwest Regional Office:

7 Tammy Haug

Southeast Regional Office:

8 Susan Raisor

IDEM Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:
Samantha Nunnery



Website: idem.IN.gov/ctap

Version 08-2026

How to Contact

- **Confidential online portal:**
portal.idem.IN.gov



[SCAN CODE for
Confidential Online Portal]

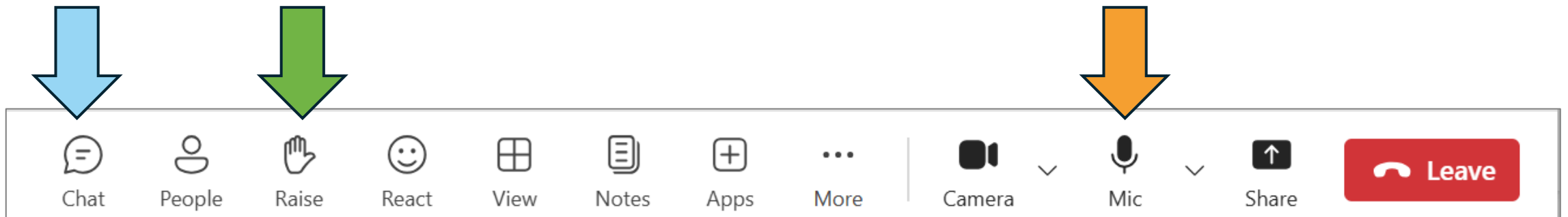
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 - 317-232-8172
- **Website:**
 - idem.IN.gov/ctap
- **Email:**
 - ctap@idem.in.gov



Q&A Session

Please ask any questions about oil and water separators in the Chat.

If you want to unmute and ask a question, raise your hand and unmute your mic when called on.

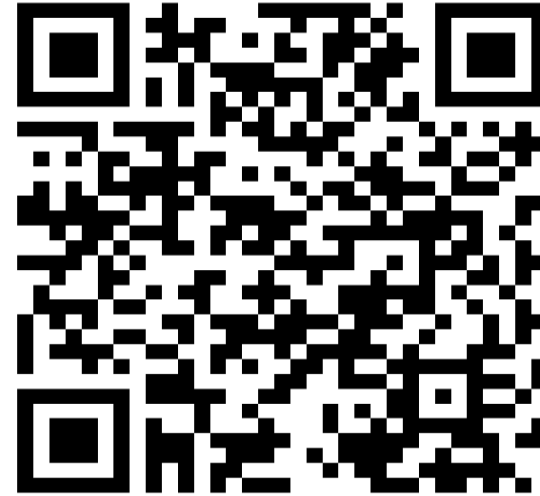


**Confidential compliance questions should be sent privately to our CTAP representative.*



Please give us feedback!

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/Q2ucJW4vY8>



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Katya Drake

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Pollution Prevention Program Manager

Compliance Assistance Questions:

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Website:

idem.IN.gov/ctap

Email:

ctap@idem.in.gov





Thank you for joining us for the Oil and Water Separators P2 Lunch and Learn!

Additional materials to be added to the P2 Toolkit website and emailed to you by Friday, September 25th.

<https://www.in.gov/idem/prevention/pollution-prevention-toolkit/>

Be on the lookout for additional P2 Lunch and Learns!

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Pollution Prevention Program
Manager

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