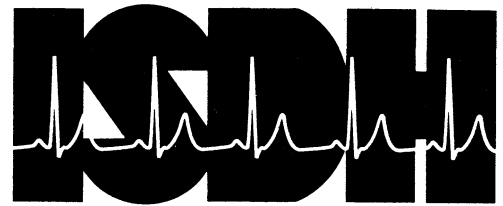


Evan Bayh, Governor

John C. Bailey, M.D., State Health Commissioner

Indiana State Department of Health  
1330 West Michigan Street  
P.O. Box 1964  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1964

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
(317) 383-6100; Fax: (317) 383-6779



Indiana State Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**DATE:** February 2, 1995

**TO:** Local Health Departments

**FROM:** Alan M. Dunn, Supervisor *AMD*  
Residential Sewage Disposal  
Sanitary Engineering  
(317) 383-6179

**SUBJECT:** On-Site Soils Evaluations  
Residential Sewage Disposal Systems

Since 1986, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has employed two soil scientists for our Residential Sewage Disposal program. Their primary responsibilities have been to: (a) assist with program development at state and local levels; (b) provide education and training for new health department personnel; and (c) respond to requests for assistance on difficult sites proposed for residential development using on-site sewage disposal systems.

At the time of their employment, there were very few soil scientists in the private sector to conduct on-site soils evaluations for residential sewage disposal systems. For that reason, we permitted our soil scientists to conduct routine on-site soils evaluations; however, since that time, and especially since the adoption of ISDH rule 410 IAC 6-8.1 in 1990, our effectiveness in meeting our primary purposes has been difficult due to the following:

- Increased demands for routine on-site soils evaluations;
- Increased requests for assistance with difficult sites; and
- Continued requests for assistance with program development and training of new local health department personnel.

Providing assistance with program development and staff training to local health departments, while responding to requests for routine soils evaluations in a timely manner, has placed a tremendous strain on our two soil scientists. Often, assistance with program development and local staff training has been delayed because of previous commitments to conduct routine on-site soils evaluations. In fact, local health department personnel have advised us that they

have not always requested the support of our soil scientists when needed because of our backlog of requests for routine on-site evaluations. Consequently, we evaluated our program and its intended functions.

Our work plan, drafted as a result of the review of our program, calls for us to use our existing resources to fulfill our primary functions prior to providing other services. As noted earlier, our primary functions include program development, assistance, training, and support to the local health departments in the operation of their residential sewage disposal programs; therefore, our primary functions do not include conducting routine soils evaluations.

The number of soil scientists in private practice has significantly increased since 1986. Private practice soil scientists are now available throughout the state. A copy of our list of American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soil (ARCPACS) certified soil scientists is attached for your convenience. Please make this list available to interested individuals in need of soils evaluations with instructions to contact a certified soil scientist for assistance.

Effective March 1, 1995, we will no longer accept requests for routine on-site soils evaluations for residential sewage disposal projects. We will continue to provide on-site soils evaluations for difficult sites or for sites for which there is sufficient justification. Attached is a revised form, "**Request for Soils Evaluation for Residential On-site Septic Tank-Absorption Field Sewage Disposal System,**" which must be used after March 1, 1995, to request on-site soils evaluations. (You may photocopy this form.) Please note that this form includes the question Justification for requesting soils evaluation," which must be answered to justify the need for soils evaluation assistance. Also, at the bottom of the revised form, please note the request for additional documentation.

We appreciate the hard work that all of you have been doing and appreciate your continued support toward our collective efforts on behalf of public health in Indiana. If you have any questions, please give me a call at (317) 383-6179.

#### Attachments

cc: Ted Alexander  
Kathy Weaver  
Howard Cundiff  
Durland H. Patterson  
Ben Hippensteel  
Staff

**INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
RESIDENTIAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL  
SANITARY ENGINEERING**

**REQUEST FOR SOILS EVALUATION FOR RESIDENTIAL ON-SITE  
SEPTIC TANK-ABSORPTION FIELD SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM**

**Soils Evaluations must be requested by the county Environmental Health Specialist**

**COUNTY** \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone number of Environmental Health Specialist Requesting Assistance:  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not realtor or installer)

Telephone #: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ Twnshp. \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Soil Atlas Sheet Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Past Assistance Provided: State: Yes No Local: Yes No Other: Yes No  
(circle one) (circle one) (circle one)

Has a permit for a new system or repair to an existing system been issued: Yes (date: \_\_\_\_\_) No

Type of Water Supply: Well \_\_\_\_\_ Public \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of site, including stage of development: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Justification for requesting soils evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If any previous on-site soils evaluations have been conducted, if any permits have been issued, or any written recommendations have been made, copies of those documents must be attached.**