

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State Department of Health

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October 17, 2005

To the Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA):

I extend greetings to IOWPA members from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and would like to take a moment to update you on recent ISDH activities relating to onsite wastewater systems.

In July 2005, the ISDH assembled an Onsite Wastewater Strategy Task Force composed of representatives from the various interests relating to residential onsite sewage systems. The purpose of this small task force was to develop strategic objectives that the ISDH should accommodate as it considers residential onsite sewage system regulation. As a part of this strategic development process, a goal was to hear from persons who could describe problems and issues with septic systems and septic system regulation so that the ISDH could better understand what challenges must be acknowledged and accommodated.

The Onsite Wastewater Strategy Task Force met four times over a two-month period. On October 5, 2005, the task force issued its final report providing eleven recommendations for improving onsite sewage system regulation. The ISDH is now reviewing these recommendations as part of the ISDH's strategic development planning process for the onsite sewage system program.

I remind you that there is currently no promulgation of residential onsite sewage system rules in progress and the ISDH has no plans for new rules in the immediate future. In establishing this short-term, focused task force, the ISDH hoped to gain input on problems and issues with sewage systems and develop an approach to addressing these problems and issues. The purpose of the task force was not to discuss rule writing.

I have been invited to attend the IOWPA Annual Educational Conference and discuss with you the task force report and our strategic development plans. I will give a presentation at the conference on Monday, January 9, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you then.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Whitson".

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health