Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

State Health Commissioner

Indiana State Department of Health

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DATE: January 28, 2005

TO: Local Health Departments

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SUBJECT: Residential Onsite Sewage Systems
Hole Positioning for Absorption Field Laterals

This memo is provided for clarification of the hole placement in the absorption field laterals in residential gravity flow and flood dosed systems.

Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-42(B) states that "The distribution pipe used in an absorption field trenches for gravity fed absorption systems must have at least two (2) rows of holes, but no more than three (3) rows. The rows shall be separated by one hundred twenty (120) degrees; the holes must be one-half (1/2) inch to three-fourths (3/4) inch in diameter, and be spaced laterally as follows:

(i) One half (1/2) inch holes at two and one-fourth (2 1/4) inch or closer spacing in each row of holes.
(ii) Five–eights (5/8) inch holes at three and one-half (3 ½) inch or closer spacing in each row of holes.
(iii) Three-fourths (3/4) inch holes at five (5) inch or closer spacing in each row of holes."

Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-49(6) states that "Site conditions must permit distribution of effluent to each trench of the system so that each square foot of absorptive area can be loaded with an equal volume of effluent."

To clarify hole positioning during installation, we use a clock face diagram to illustrate proper positioning of the rows of holes in the absorption field laterals. When the absorption field lateral has only two rows of holes, the pipe must be installed with the two rows positioned at the 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock positions. When a three row pipe is used, it must be installed with holes located at 12, 8, and 4 o'clock.

Although this method of hole positioning is not specified in the current rule, it has been used for years in order to provide for the distribution of effluent required in 410 IAC 6-8.1-49(6).

If you have any more questions or comments concerning this issue please do not hesitate to contact me.