

Frank L. O'Bannon
Governor

Richard D. Feldman, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State Department of Health

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DATE: May 26, 2000

TO: Local Health Departments

FROM: Alan M. Dunn, Supervisor ^{AMD}
Residential Sewage Disposal
Sanitary Engineering
AC (317) 233-7177

SUBJECT: Residential On-Site Sewage Disposal
Use of ADS BioDiffusor Technology

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), and Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS), Inc., have come to an understanding concerning the use of BioDiffusor Technology. The BioDiffusor units are manufactured by PSA, Inc., a subsidiary of ADS. These systems are subsurface trench absorption systems using high-density polyethylene chambers as an alternative to the use of gravel in the absorption field trenches. We had already approved the use of that technology on a one-to-one equivalent to aggregate systems, and for repairs, by my memorandum of November 22, 1996 to all local health departments.

Concerning the use of the technology as proposed by ADS, ISDH will permit the installation of the BioDiffusor per manufacturer's instructions, including sizing, with the following stipulations:

1. That ISDH be notified by a representative of ADS, the local health department, or the property owner, whenever application is made for the installation of a system. ISDH is requesting local health departments to inform this agency when application is made. ISDH will notify ADS, if there are counties in which the local health department will not notify ISDH when application is made.
2. That a five year guarantee against failure, as defined by ISDH Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-8, be provided by ADS for each system, assuming installation in accordance with the applicable provisions of Indiana Code and manufacturer's instructions.
3. That system size will be in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, except that sizing will be at least 60 percent of what would be required for a subsurface trench system using aggregate, based on the soil loading rate and the design daily flow. System size for this technology, as for all subsurface trench systems, is the total square footage of the trench bottoms.
4. That original installations include a set aside area of sufficient size to allow for installation of a system as currently described in Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1.

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5. That local health departments agree to notify ISDH of any alteration or repair of any downsized BioDiffusor system. [Pursuant to ISDH Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-33(a), a permit must be obtained from the local health department prior to any alteration or repair of the system.]

These systems must meet all other applicable provisions of Indiana Code. They may not be used on sites where subsurface trench systems would be prohibited due to insufficient area, excessive slope, inappropriate landscape position, excessive permeability, insufficient depth to bedrock or other limiting layer, or a shallow seasonal high water table which cannot be lowered (See ISDH Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-49).

The use of these systems shall meet all other applicable Indiana State Department of Health rules as well as all other standards set by local ordinance. The acceptance of this type of system by the Indiana State Department of Health does not relieve the builder, homeowner, or system installer of the responsibility for compliance with state rule and local ordinances.

Please note that a part of this understanding is that ISDH be notified whenever an application is made for the installation of a system. We have agreed that we would request that the local health departments provide that notification. **If you are unwilling to provide that notification, please let me know, in writing, so that I may so advise ADS.** After notification of ISDH upon the receipt of an application, and upon verification by the local health department that the system will comply with applicable standards outlined in Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1 and this memorandum, the system may be approved by the local health department without individual review by ISDH.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Attachment

cc: Environmental Health staff
Plan Review staff
Residential On-Site staff
Gary Bingham
Thomas Rueschhoff, P.E.
Brian Woods
Dick Bachelder