



## POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

### ONSITE SOIL BORINGS

1. The Environmental Health Services Division will provide one onsite visit to provide soil borings for residential permit applications on individual lots in established recorded subdivisions or single metes and bounds description parcels for an individual owner of property. These onsite visits will take place in the same sequence and priority that we receive the requests. The normal procedure will be to describe the soil and note soil/site limitations in the area of the system installation. The applicant will be instructed to place a flag provided by the Health Department in the system (absorption field) area. If a more suitable area is readily apparent, the Health Department staff may provide additional detail at that location. The department cannot provide soils mapping to large parcels of land. Should the applicant require the mapping of a large parcel or seek a second opinion, they must engage a registered soil scientist.
2. All soil information for commercial or industrial permit applications must be provided by a registered soil scientist listed on the Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists or as otherwise accepted by the Indiana State Department of Health. This information must be provided in the format stipulated by the Indiana State Department of Health.
3. Soil information for proposed residential subdivisions (minor and major) must be provided by a registered soil scientist. Soil information sought for feasibility/suitability purposes prior to sale of tracts or parcels which will not be part of the subdivision control process must be provided by a registered soil scientist
4. The following information is to be included in the soil scientist report, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Soil borings adequate in number to reasonably identify the various soil types present and transition zones.
  - b. A full description of each soil horizon including texture, structure and color.
  - c. Depth to limiting layer or evidence of soil disturbance.
  - d. Depth to seasonal high water or the first indication of soil wetness characteristics.
  - e. Where seasonable high water table conditions exist (less than 36 inches), a topographical map must be provided with enough detail to indicate the general slope of the property and where the gravity outlet for a perimeter drain may be located.
  - f. A fixed point of reference and drawing with measurements indicating the specific boring locations described.

If a perimeter drain is proposed which discharges off of the property from which it originates, a recorded use and maintenance easement to access this tile will be required and must be recorded prior to the issuance of any permit and should be obtained prior to the county's technical review process. Failure to record the easement will result in the delay of a permit being issued.

The Elkhart County Surveyor's office must be notified prior to, and approve, a clearwater discharge entering a county regulated drain (see attached).

5. All soil boring descriptions submitted for the county's technical review process must also indicate in the report areas that would limit the site's suitability for an onsite septic system. These factors may include, but are not limited to: compact till, poor filters, steep slopes, large holes, borrow pits, standing water, potential or identified wetlands, field tiles, dirt piles, water bodies or filled areas.
6. Where existing structures are present, they must be accurately located on the drawing along with all existing water wells and septic systems. This is especially critical when subdividing into smaller than standard tracts of land.

Approved by the Elkhart County Board of Health:



President, Board of Health

February 24, 2005