



PRESBY ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Protecting You and the Environment

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***** U R G E N T *****
INDIANA TRAINING UPDATE
PREVENTING EXCESS HYDRAULIC LOADING

TO: All Certified Indiana Enviro-Septic® Professionals
FROM: Presby Environmental, Inc. and Environmental Septic Solutions, Inc.
RE: Important Training Updates & New Forms
DATED: December, 2009

As you may know, ISDH conducted a number of Enviro-Septic® site inspections this spring to assess how well these systems are functioning. While the vast majority of Enviro-Septic® systems were installed correctly and functioning properly, there were a few design/installation errors that were seen frequently enough to warrant corrective action. The various problems identified had one thing in common—the result was hydraulic overload (flooding) of the treatment field. Since Enviro-Septic® is an aerobic treatment system, saturated conditions are detrimental to its function. Not surprisingly, these problems became most noticeable during the heavy rains that occurred this spring, when onsite systems were subjected to heavy storm water run-off.

There are a few relatively easy installation techniques that are very effective in redirecting surface waters away from the treatment field, including crowning during final grading and the installation of swales. Perimeter drains are also quite effective at lowering the seasonal high water table when properly installed and maintained. It is also important that foundation drains, sump pumps and gutter systems not discharge in the system area. The enclosed Training Update provides detailed information about potential causes of hydraulic overloading and what can be done to prevent it. There is also an update providing details illustrating the correct installation methods for raised connections and tee baffles in the distribution box.

In order to assist our certified Indiana designers and installers, we have developed the enclosed Design Worksheet and Installation Checklist in cooperation with ISDH. In an effort to ensure consistent, high-quality design and installation of Enviro-Septic® systems, PEI and ISDH are **strongly** recommending the use of these forms. We trust you will find that they provide a concise collection of relevant information in a user-friendly format. Consistent use of these forms by all designers and installers will also make it

easier for the local health departments to perform their required inspections. In order to assure that everyone involved is “on the same page,” completed forms are to be provided to the designer, the installer, the system owner and the local health officer. A helpful, informative presentation on the use of the new worksheets is available on the Indiana page of our website, www.presbyenvironmental.com.

During these site inspections, it was discovered that some issues were the result of the system owner’s actions after the system was installed. For instance, some homeowners were found to have filled in or altered swales, or failed to inspect the outlets of their perimeter drain to remove obstructions, or directed water from drains or gutter systems to a location where it was having a detrimental effect on the system’s function. Some system owners actually had no idea where their treatment field was located. In an effort to educate homeowners about the proper use and care of an Enviro-Septic® system, we have developed an Owner’s Manual that is available for download from our website, www.presbyenvironmental.com. We recommend that you print out a manual and provide one to each system owner before their new system is put into use, or direct owners to the website and encourage them to familiarize themselves with these important instructions that will enhance their system’s function and maximize its longevity.

No one wants more “paperwork.” We want our systems to work as intended, and we know you do, too. While Enviro-Septic® is “Technology New to Indiana,” it has been used with exceptional results for over 15 years throughout New England and across Canada, with about 100,000 systems in the ground. There is a learning curve when introducing anything “new;” but, once you are accustomed to working with Enviro-Septic®, we are confident you will find our system to be quicker, easier, less expensive and more versatile to design and install. These forms give you the benefit of knowledge and experience we’ve developed through the years, and we’re confident that using them will make your job easier and help ensure the quality of Enviro-Septic® designs and installations in Indiana.

If you have any questions about the enclosed Training Update, Design Worksheet or Installation Checklist, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for choosing to recommend the Enviro-Septic® System to your clients. We look forward to many years of working together with you to provide an effective solution for onsite wastewater treatment in Indiana.

Best regards,

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