

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204

(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • www.idem.IN.gov

Eric J. Holcomb

Bruno Pigott
Commissioner

August 26, 2021

Via Email to: psinders@gmail.com

Mr. Paul Sinders, County Commissioner Clay County Commissioners 609 E. National Avenue Brazil, Indiana 47834

Dear Mr. Sinders:

Re: Inspection Summary/ Noncompliance Letter Community of Coalmont Clay County

A complaint, that was originally submitted to EPA on November 9, 2020, was forwarded to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). An IDEM wastewater inspector was assigned on March 25, 2021. The complaint states that complainant lives in a town (Coalmont) that has no sewage system. Water from sinks and washers run into ditches, along with possibly sewage. The complainant is concerned about public health issues related to septic wastewater in roadside and back yard ditches.

IDEM inspectors (including a former County Health Department Septic Environmentalist) conducted a field visit and inspection of the ditches in Coalmont on April 1, 2021. Inspectors observed numerous septic systems that appeared to be discharging directly into road ditches throughout the Town (see photos in original report, attached). The original report was sent to Clay County Health Department, later it was determined the authority to resolve this issue lies with the County Commissioners, thus the reissuance of the original report with this letter.

410 Indiana Administrative Code 6-8.3-52 states that: No person shall throw, run, drain, seep, or otherwise dispose into any of the surface waters or ground waters of this state, or cause, permit, or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep, or otherwise disposed into such waters, any organic or inorganic matter from a dwelling or residential on-site sewage system that would cause or contribute to a health hazard or water pollution. (b) The: (1) design; (2) construction; (3) installation; (4) location; (5) maintenance; and (6) operation; of residential on-site sewage systems shall comply with the provisions of this rule.

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 13-30-2-1(1), a person may not discharge, emit, cause, allow or threaten to discharge, emit, cause, or allow any contaminant or waste, including



any noxious odor, either alone or in combination with contaminants from other sources, into the environment.

Pursuant to IC 13-18-4-5, it is unlawful for any person to throw, run, drain or otherwise dispose into any of the streams or waters of Indiana; or cause, permit, or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep, or otherwise disposed into any waters; any organic or inorganic matter that contributes to a polluted condition of any waters, as determined by a rule of the board adopted under sections 1 and 3 of this chapter.

Based on the inspector's observations, many septic systems in the unincorporated community appear to be unapproved sewage disposal methods along with open sewer laterals discharging directly on the ground and into waters of the State. This is in direct violation of 410 IAC 6-8.3-52 and Indiana Code (IC) 13-30-2-1. This is a violation of the above referenced regulations and the County must address this public health and water quality issue.

Sincerely,

Samantha Groce,

Wastewater Inspections Section Chief

Compliance Branch
Office of Water Quality

Enclosures

cc: Bill Hale, Clay County Health Department (billh@claycountyin.gov)

Mike Mettler, ISDH (mmettler@isdh.in.gov)



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Eric J. Holcomb

Bruno Pigott Commissioner

April 06, 2021

<u>Via Email to:</u> billh@claycountyin.gov Mr. Bill Hale, Registered Environmental Health Specialist Clay County Health Department 18 N. Walnut Brazil. Indiana 47834

Dear Mr. Hale:

Re: Inspection Summary/ Noncompliance Letter
Town of Coalmont

Coalmont, Clay County

An inspection of the above-referenced facility or location was conducted by a representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Quality, pursuant to IC 13-18-3-9. A summary of the inspection is provided below:

Date(s) of Inspection: April 01, 2021

Type of Inspection: Complaint Investigation (#95168)

Inspection Results: Violations were observed.

The following concerns were noted:

A complaint, that was originally submitted to EPA on November 9, 2020, was forwarded to the IDEM inspector on March 25, 2021. The complaint states that complainant lives in a town (Coalmont) that has no sewage system. Water from sinks and washers run into ditches, along with possibly sewage. The complainant is concerned about public health issues related to septic wastewater in roadside and back yard ditches.

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- (b) The:
- (1) design;
- (2) construction;
- (3) installation;
- (4) location;
- (5) maintenance; and
- (6) operation;

of residential on-site sewage systems shall comply with the provisions of this rule.

Based on inspectors observations, many septic systems in the Town may not be compliant with the aforementioned Indiana State Department of Health rule. This information is being forwarded to the County and State Health Departments for further investigation and follow-up.

This information is being forwarded to the State and County Health Departments for further review. Please direct any questions to Holly Zurcher at 317-954-8028 or by email to hzurcher@idem.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Samantha Groce, Chief Wastewater Inspection Section Office of Water Quality

Enclosure

Cc: Mike Mettler, ISDH Complainant



NPDES Wastewater Facility Inspection Report INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

	1816										
NPDE	S Permit Number:	Facility ¹	Гуре:					Facility C	Classification:		TEMPO AI ID
No Permit NA			A		Minor NA						
Date	(s) of Inspection: A	pril 01, 20	21					•			
	e of Inspection: Co	mplaint In	vest	igation	(#95168)						
Name	and Location of Facility Ins	pected:					Receiving Waters:			Perm	it Expiration Date:
	n of Coalmont										
Various Locations			County:			Various ditches			Design Flow:		
	mont	IN 4	1784	15 C	lay						
	te Representative(s): acility rep was met at t	he site.									
	Was a verbal sum	mary of	ind	ings pi	resented	to the	e on-site represe	ntative?	No		
Certifi	ed Operator:	Number:		Class:	Effective Da	ite: Ex	piration Date: Email:				
Cybe	er Security Contact:										
Name					Email:		İ				
	onsible Official: Bill Hale, Registered Fr	vironmen	tal F	lealth S	Specialist				alth Depar	tmer	<u>nt</u>
Mr. Bill Hale, Registered Environmental Health Specialist 18 N. Walnut Contracts Con							•				
					Phone:				Contacted?		
Brazil, Indiana 47834 Fax:							No				
					INSPECTI	ON FI	NDINGS				
	O Conditions evaluate	d were four	nd to	be sati	sfactory at	the tin	ne of the inspection.	(5)			
	O Violations were disc	overed but	corr	ected di	uring the in	spectio	on. (4)				
	O Potential problems v	were discov	ered	l or obse	erved. (3)						
	Violations were disc	overed and	requ	uire a su	ubmittal fro	m you	and/or a follow-up ir	spection	by IDEM. (2	2)	
	O Violations were disc									•	
	<u> </u>						RING INSPECTION		,		
		(S = Sa					satisfactory, N = Not E				
Ν	Receiving Waters		N	Facility	y/Site	Ν	Self-Monitoring	N	Complia	nce S	Schedules
Ν	Effluent		Ν	Opera	tion	N	Flow Measuremer	nt N	Pretreatr	nent	
N	Permit		N	Mainte	enance	N	Laboratory	N	Effluent l	Limit	s Compliance
N	Collection System		N	Sludge	Э	N	Records/Reports	U	Other: ^W _S	/ater F	Pollution/Failed
				DETA	AILED AR	EA E\	/ALUATIONS			ориос	
Efflu	uent Limits Complian	ce:	_								
	1. Were DMRs review		t of t	the insp	ection?						
	nents:	·		·							
Othe		4.									
Comm	er Pollution/Failed Senents:	ptics									
A co	mplaint, that was origi										ctor on
	ch 25, 2021. The comp										
	em. Water from sinks									nt Is	

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State Health Departments for further investigation and follow-up.								
IDEM REPRESENTATIVE								
Inspector Name:	Email:	Phone Number:						
Holly Zurcher	hzurcher@idem.IN.gov	317-954-8028						
Other staff participating in the inspection:								
Name(s)	Phone Number(s)							
Kevin Stark	812-525-9411							
IDEM MANAGER REVIEW								
IDEM Manager:		Date:						
Andy Schmidt		4/5/2021						

Inspection Photographs





Town of Coalmont

Photographer: Kevin Stark

Date: 4/1/2021

Others Present: Holly Zurcher

Location/Description:

Cleaning debris to reveal sewage discharging into road ditch.

Time:



Facility:

Town of Coalmont

Photographer: Kevin Stark

Date: 4/1/2021 Time:

Others Present: Holly Zurcher

Location/Description:

Downstream of pipe above.



Facility:

Town of Coalmont

Photographer: Kevin Stark

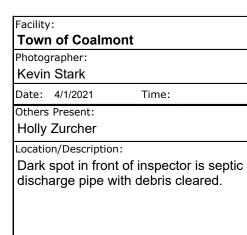
Date: 4/1/2021 Time:

Others Present: Holly Zurcher

Location/Description:

Another septic pipe discharging into road ditch.







Facility:
Town of Coalmont

Photographer:
Kevin Stark

Date: 4/1/2021 Time:
Others Present:
Holly Zurcher

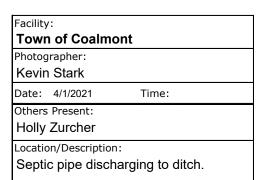
Location/Description:
Septic pipe discharging in ditch.



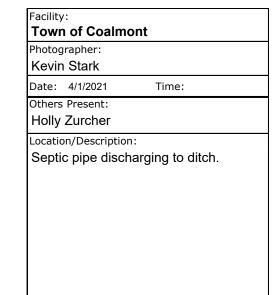
Facility:
Town of Coalmont
Photographer:
Kevin Stark

Date: 4/1/2021 Time:
Others Present:
Holly Zurcher
Location/Description:
Downstream view of septic discharge in ditch.









Facility:



Photographer:
Kevin Stark

Date: 4/1/2021 Time:
Others Present:
Holly Zurcher

Location/Description:
Septic pipe discharging to ditch.