Warren County Health Department

Residential OSS Septic Ordinance:

Narrative for more stringent sections than the Indiana Code

**Section B:** Section B provides definitions standardized by IDOH. These definitions will provide better clarification between the Warren County Health Department and homeowners, contractors, or installers regarding what is considered new construction, repair, and what a malfunction of a septic system is with some examples of probable causes. The definition section also includes definitions for the term’s installers, involuntary, and voluntary, which are terms used within the ordinance. The goal of these definitions is not to make the Warren County Ordinance more stringent than Indiana code but provide clarity between terms used in the ordinance and between the health department and homeowners.

**Section C:** Section C establishes requirements for OSS installers to be registered with the Warren County Health Department. As recent as the summer of 2023, Warren County has seen issues with individuals with no knowledge regarding IAC 6-8.3 improperly install their residential OSS system. These installations that don’t meet IAC 6-8.3 are an environmental hazard to the community and are likewise a costly expense on homeowners. Section C is not designed to gatekeep who can install OSS systems in Warren County but is instead designed to ensure all who do are capable of meeting the standards set forth by IAC 6-8.3.

**Section D:** Section D provides minimum requirements for sewage holding tanks installed in Warren County, while also providing requirements on homeowners to ensure proper maintenance of the holding tank is met and documented with the Health Department.

**Section E:** Section E of the ordinance helps keep continuity of current practices with the Warren County OSS program. Currently, soil scientist conduct a minimum of three soil borings/pits per soil inspection, and they provide these reports to the health department. This section of the ordinance will ensure continuity of this practice between future health inspectors and soil scientist operating within Warren County. The section also provides requirements for D-boxes to be stabilized with backfilling to help prevent movement which can lead to unequal distribution into the leach field.

**Section F:** Section F of the ordinance puts forth the requirements to determine if and how an existing residential OSS system can be approved for connection to a new/replacement residential structure.

**Section G:** Section G explains the capacity for the Warren County Health Department to enforce the ordinance and IAC 6-8.3 as well as lay out the necessary actions the Health Department must take to conduct such enforcement.