

Indiana Department of Environmental Management E-News Release

For immediate release
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Indiana Water Pollution Control Board to hold three public hearings to receive comments on request to change water rule

The Indiana Water Pollution Control Board (WPCB) wants to hear what Hoosiers think about a request that the state amend its rule regarding into which streams wastewater treatment plants can discharge treated water.

The Board has scheduled hearings in three communities on the requested rule change, filed by Save our Knobs (SOK) and the Greenville Concerned Citizens (GCC) in Floyd County.

In their citizens' petition asking for the rule change, the groups ask the WPCB to limit the number of streams available to wastewater treatment plants. The petition proposes that treatment plants be allowed to discharge only into streams that have a minimum dilution ration of 10:1 (10 parts stream water to one part discharged treated water) at all times.

The proposed rule change would affect any proposed treatment plant expansion and all new wastewater treatment plants statewide. At present, a majority of permitted wastewater treatment plants discharge to streams with less than a 10:1 dilution ratio. NPDES permits are issued to each plant to establish conditions to ensure that all state and federal water quality standards and technology requirements are continuously met. Facilities must provide compliance information monthly and IDEM inspects and takes appropriate compliance and enforcement action as warranted.

The hearings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. in the following locations:

Tuesday, September 28 - Silver Creek High School, 557 Renz Ave, Sellersburg, IN 47172

Wednesday, September 29 - Elkhart Public Library: 300 South 2nd Street., Elkhart, IN 46516

Thursday, September 30 - Pike Public Library, 6525 Zionsville Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46268

The Save our Knobs (SOK) and the Greenville Concerned Citizens (GCC) petition is available online at <http://www.in.gov/idem/water/planbr/rules/index.html> and is also available upon request from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 100 North Senate Ave., P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206-6015 (Attn: Larry Wu).

Written comments may be forwarded to the same address and will be accepted until October 12, 2004.

The Save our Knobs and Greenville Concerned Citizens groups are presenting their petition under the citizen rulemaking statute, which is found in the Indiana Code (IC 13-14-8-5). Any person may present written proposals for the adoption, amendment or repeal of a rule by one of the boards. If the proposal meets all the requirements set out in the statute, the board must hold a public hearing.

IDEM (www.IN.gov/idem) oversees and implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. (Rules are available online at <http://www.in.gov/idem/rules/> .) IDEM issues permits and pursues enforcement action when violations occur that would harm the health of Indiana's air, land and water. Through incentive programs and outreach projects, the agency also encourages businesses and citizens to take actions every day to protect and improve Indiana's environment.

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Reporters' contact:
Bonnie Nash
IDEM's Office of Media and Communications Services
(317)232-8596
bnash@dem.state.in.us

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