

From: John Grace [\[mailto:jgrace@dearborncounty.in.gov\]](mailto:jgrace@dearborncounty.in.gov)
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Jane Wittke
Subject:

Jane,

I would like to see local private and municipal water suppliers brought into the equation for our Water Quality management plan. To not do so would be ignoring a major factor directly contributing to water quality problems in our county.

Several examples exist that display this problem:

Yesterday I witnessed a sewage lift station from a private residence discharging raw sewage into a stream. The lift station had been turned off by the utility company because of non-payment of their sewage bill (outstanding bill of more than 2,000 dollars). I called the local, private water supplier to see if they could turn off the water to the residence in order to alleviate the problem. However, the water bill has been paid and so the water supplier had no recourse to help us.

In High Ridge subdivision, while progress has been made to contain and treat sewage, there are some residences that pay their water bill but have not been paying their sewer bills.

In fact, entire communities in our area have this problem including Guilford, New Alsace, Yorkville, Manchester, other small towns, and more densely populated clusters of housing on the outskirts of Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Greendale, St. Leon, Moores Hill, and Dillsboro.

While being a part of the water problems in our area, the municipal and private water suppliers could also just as easily become a solution to some problems through the development of needed inter-local agreements between them and us (Health Department, sewer districts, or municipal sewage treatment suppliers) in the form of turning off the water to residences that do not pay their sewer bill or fix their septic system. Perhaps they (water suppliers) may also be taxed or supply funds to upgrade septic systems or help fund centralized or semi-centralized treatment facilities. **Have these kinds of agreements or efforts been made in other communities?** I would think that, if not from a legal standpoint, they at least have some moral responsibility to see that the water that is being supplied is also being adequately treated.

Your consideration and feedback on this angle of alleviating pollution would be appreciated. Please share this email, or the ideas contained herein, with other committee members if you wish.

Sincerely,

John Grace
Dearborn County Health Department