

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Shelby County Health Department**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Proposed Changes to the Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Code (IPSD) and IEPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for residential homes with IPSD surface discharges.**

**Shelbyville, Illinois, April 8, 2009**— The Shelby County Board today voted to oppose proposed changes to the Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and Code. A significant change in the regulation would prohibit the use of common collectors used to carry treated and clarified discharges from private sewage disposal systems within subdivisions. “The change would make subdivisions developed in the country a thing of the past within Shelby County”, commented health administrator Stephen Melega. In Shelby County, most private sewage disposal systems have a disinfected surface discharge because of having mainly clay soils that prohibited the use of subsurface systems. The board also voted to oppose HB0170 that would require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for residential homes with surface discharging private sewage disposal systems. The Onsite Wastewater Professional’s of Illinois (OWPI) has estimate the cost to be approximately \$ 500 a year to homeowners for permit testing.

Premises for having such regulation is based that IPSD discharges from state approved homeowner’s septic systems find their way into the streams and rivers of the United States. Health department administrator Stephen Melega stated this is just not the case. Most discharges from residential septic systems such as buried sand filters and aeration units or aerobic treatment plants evaporate on the ground just a few feet away from their discharge point. These systems are installed in ways to prevent ponding of water to keep mosquitoes from breeding.

The USEPA, under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act which has language directly related to industry and business, has directed the IEPA to establish such permitting process for homeowners to protect the environment. Most health authorities in the state feel this is overkill and will cause more harm than good by increasing the construction of illegal systems to avoid these new rules.