Homeowner Agreement

To Participate in Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study

Nitrogen is an important concern for water quality. Animals, crops, ecosystems, and human health can be adversely impacted by the presence of nitrogen in water supplies. The environmental effects of nitrogen on groundwater and surface water can ultimately lead to the degradation of surface waters in watershed systems that have strong groundwater/surface water interactions. Nitrogen that enters surface water bodies via these interactions can lead to algal blooms and eutrophication. These processes lead to oxygen depletion in surface waters which can be harmful to natural aquatic life. In Florida, the protection of watersheds, in particular surface water bodies, has led to the legislation of protection of these areas (i.e., the Wekiva River Protection Act).

A research study to examine nitrogen reduction strategies for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in the State of Florida is underway. The project is being conducted by Hazen and Sawyer, P.C an environmental engineering firm under contract with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH).

One element of this research project is to prioritize nitrogen removal technologies under field conditions. To reach this goal, field-testing of nitrogen reducing technologies at home sites is needed to compare various treatment systems for their ability to remove nitrogen. Monitoring nitrogen reduction of the systems will occur at various locations in the State of Florida. In addition, the research project includes subsurface and groundwater monitoring which will be used to assess the current level of nitrogen reduction obtained by Florida soils and to assess groundwater impacts due to conventional and nitrogen removal systems.

The participation of select homeowners is essential for the success of this research program. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers to allow their onsite wastewater systems to be used for this project. All homeowners will remain anonymous in all data analysis and reporting. The study will last up to two years with all site visits scheduled at the homeowner's convenience. The work at each property may include:

- Property walkovers to characterize land uses and features
- Collection of information from the owner regarding water use and wastewater system data
- Installation of new wastewater treatment equipment
- Soil borings
- Installation of monitoring wells
- Collection of wastewater samples
- Monitor energy used and other operational costs

Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. will be responsible for: application for permits, modifications, operation, maintenance, monitoring, inspections, and removal or leaving the system in place at study termination. The project funds will cover the cost of any permits required, any new technology installed, maintenance costs, and restoration of property to original condition. All project payments will terminate upon site closure. The homeowner shall agree to not tamper with the system during the monitoring period. The site will be restored to the original condition upon completion of the study if desired by the homeowner. All homes participating in the study will receive a $250 cash incentive.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this important research project, please fill in the information below and sign where indicated. We will coordinate all our activities with you and give you any additional information you require prior to beginning work at your property.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request, and we look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Hazen and Sawyer, P.C.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Type of system installed/existing to be evaluated: _____

HOMEOWNER

By: _____

HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C.

By: _____
Damann L. Anderson

Title: Vice President

encl.: Residential Evaluation Survey