

APPENDIX G

PROJECT NEED INFORMATION

Nearly all of the residences and small businesses in Bean Blossom are experiencing at least minor problems with their septic systems and several of them are experiencing major problems. This appendix contains background information that documents Bean Blossom's situation and identifies the problems that must be addressed.

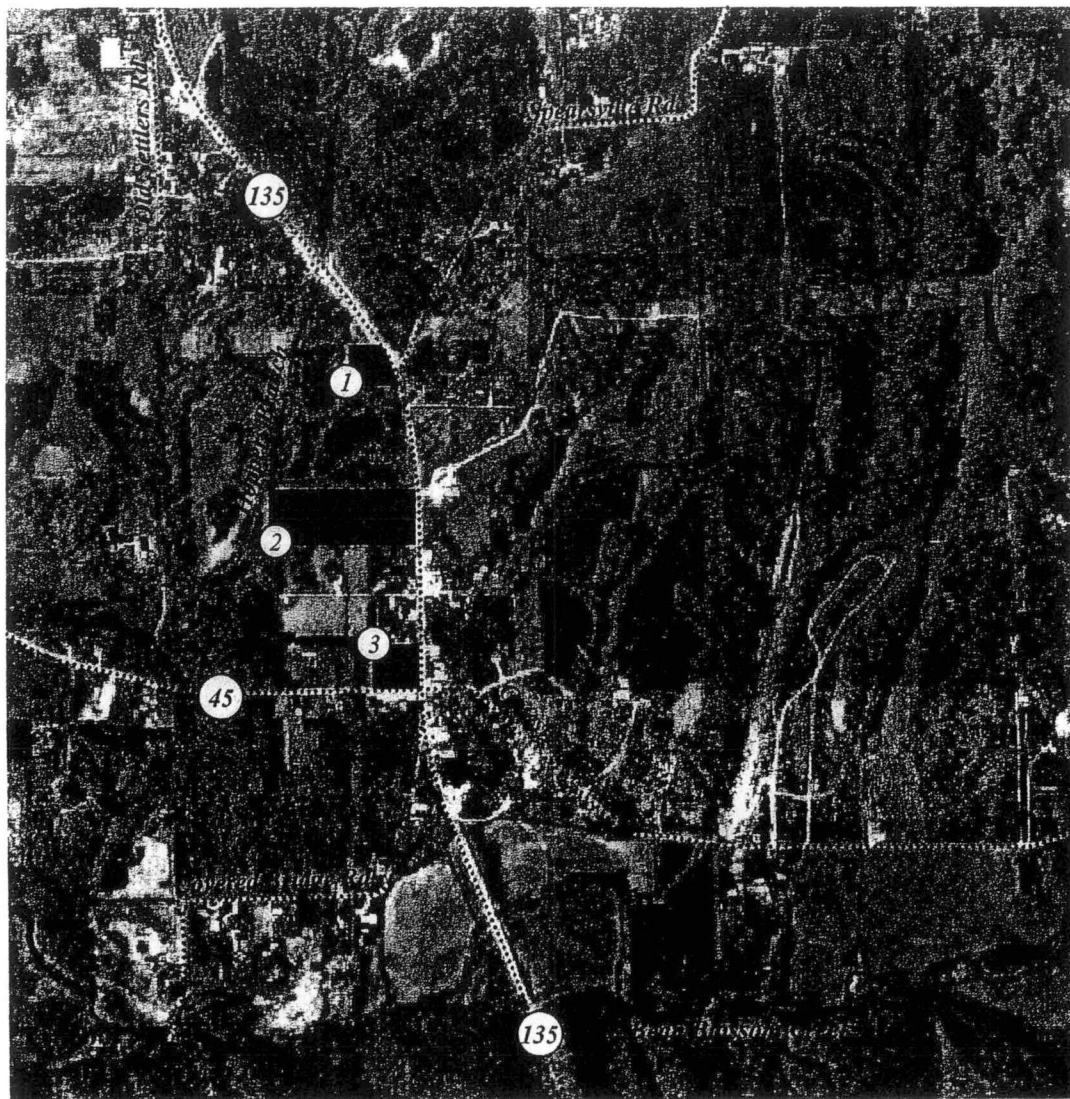
Problem Assessment

The community of Bean Blossom currently uses individual on-site septic systems for wastewater treatment. Many of the existing systems are more than 50 years old and are experiencing frequent failures. In addition, several of the businesses in the Bean Blossom area have been in decline because they do not have the land needed to repair or upgrade their septic systems. The Brown County Health Department (BCHD) has cited several homeowners in the area for septic system failures and has denied issuing septic permits to several potential businesses and residences.

The failing septic systems have had an adverse environmental impact on the area, mainly through the pollution of surface and ground water, which has caused health concerns for community residents. Water quality testing performed by the BCHD during the summer of 2000 showed *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) counts of greater than 2,400 parts per 100 milliliter (mL) sample in Hopper's Branch Creek and 690 parts per 100 mL in a roadside ditch along Covered Bridge Road. (See Figure A1.) Indiana's Water Quality Standards set an average of less than 126 *E. coli* colonies per 100 mL of water as the standard safe level (IDEM, 2000).

Major Problem Areas

Information provided by the client identified three areas experiencing major problems with their septic systems. These major problem areas consist of a small commercial business, the community's trailer court, and the commercial businesses at the intersection of State Road 45 and State Road 135. (See Figure



NO SCALE

LEGEND

- Stream
- Roadway
- ② ■ Problem Area



FIGURE NO. A1
Bean Blossom Wastewater Treatment Alternatives

MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS



Figure A3: A view of what is believed to be the business's septic tank. The building is located uphill, to the right of the photo.

Problem Area Two

Problem area two is the 31-lot mobile home park located on the north end of the community. The park has an undersized and poorly maintained septic system that is discharging wastewater onto the ground and into nearby Hoppers Branch Creek. It is probably to blame for the extremely high *E. Coli* counts found in the creek during the summer of 2000. The situation presents a major health concern to the entire community.

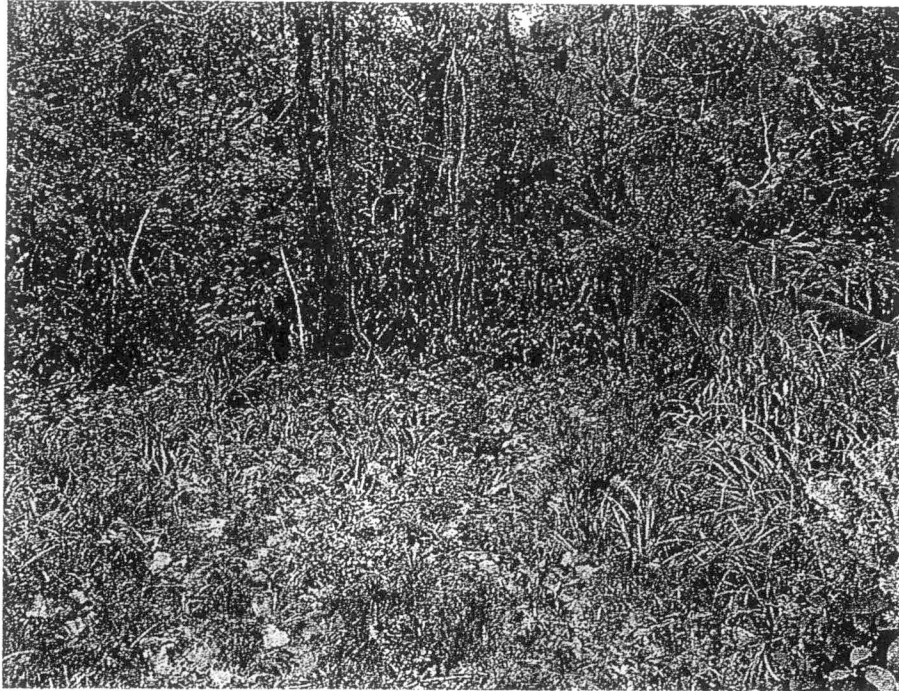


Figure A5: A view directly east of the septic tank illustrated in Figure A4. Note the dark wastewater resting on the ground and the abnormal plant growth, evidence of a failing septic system. This wastewater has been seeping into Hoppers Branch Creek, located in the middle of the picture. Note the pipe running through the right side of the picture. The pipe leads uphill to the mobile home court.



Figure A6: A view of the trailer court's leach field, located west of the septic tank shown in Figure A4. Again, dark wastewater and abnormal plant growth are present.

Figure A8: A view of another small business at the intersection, located just south of the supermarket. The building doesn't have working restrooms because of the failing septic systems at the location.

