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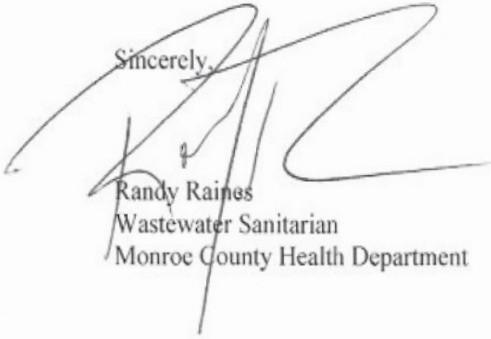
In 2005, the Monroe County Health Department conducted a survey of past septic system installations for the previous ten years. During that time, over 4000 septic systems had been installed, inspected and approved by this Department. These septic systems consisted of in-ground aggregate, chamber, graveless pipe, and mounds.

Letters were sent out to 400 homes randomly picked by their permit numbers. The letters consisted of an explanation for the survey, several questions dealing with the functionality of their septic system and a notification of an onsite inspection or re-visit by someone from our department. Fourteen of the 400 or about 4% of the septic systems were found to be failing. They consisted of 8 aggregate and 6 chamber type systems. We knew something had to be done to improve these results.

Monroe County consist of three major lakes, one of which is a source of water for the county. The other half of the county consist of karst features such as sink holes, caverns, and springs. We could not allow any type of pollution for either of these situations. Mound septic systems were being employed to our most severe situations since the early 90's around our lakes for the cleansing power of the sand bed. The only problem was overall cost. In the fall of 2005, our department was introduced to Presby Environmental Septic System. Here was a septic system like a mound utilizing the benefits of the sand bed but containing a pipe which creates a bio mat which further aids in cleansing the effluent.

In 2006 we began installing Presby Environmental Septic Systems, a total of 34 were installed. This increased from 165 by 2007 to 288 by 2008. We were so impressed with the performance in both new situations and use on repairs of previous system that by 2008, almost all septic systems were Presby. Today with over 900 Presby septic systems in the ground our county is exclusively only allowing sand lined septic systems.

Sincerely,



Randy Raines  
Wastewater Sanitarian  
Monroe County Health Department