



Mike Braun  
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP  
State Health Commissioner

February 14, 2025

William Stoddard  
President  
SludgeHammer Group, Ltd.  
4772 S. Hwy 131, Bldg. D  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Dear Mr. Stoddard,

Re: Approval of SludgeHammer Group, Ltd. SludgeHammer ABG

The SludgeHammer Group Ltd. SludgeHammer Aerobic Bacterial Generator Models S-46, S-66, S-66+ Tank Bottom Diffuser (TBD), S-86, S-126 and S-156 IAPMO IGC 180-2013e1 certified and listed products (SludgeHammer ABG) are hereby approved for use in Indiana as a rejuvenation product in an onsite sewage system with a soil absorption field experiencing biomat formation failure, or in new or existing septic tanks preceding a soil absorption field not experiencing biomat failure as a preventative measure, under the provisions of 410 IAC 6-8.3-52(h) and 410 IAC 6-10.1-49(h). The Indiana Department of Health's (IDOH) Technical Review Panel (TRP) reviewed and approved the products on October 25, 2024, with revisions made on November 22, 2024 and January 24, 2025, subject to the conditions included in this letter.

The SludgeHammer Group, Ltd. Approved SludgeHammer ABG Models are limited to:

ABG Series	Model	Flow Rate Limitation (GPD)
SludgeHammer®	S-46	600
SludgeHammer®	S-66	600
SludgeHammer®	S-66+TBD	1,000
SludgeHammer®	S-86	1,000
SludgeHammer®	S-126	600
SludgeHammer®	S-156	1,000

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The Indiana Department of Health is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.



This approval is subject to all conditions listed below:

**I. The SludgeHammer Group, Ltd. is required to:**

- a) Develop a SludgeHammer ABG Design and Installation Manual approved by the IDOH. The SludgeHammer ABG IAPMO Design and Installation manual dated February 14, 2025 is hereby approved by the IDOH;
- b) Develop a checklist, approved by the IDOH, to determine whether a SludgeHammer ABG product is suitable for installation at a site. The SludgeHammer Rejuvenation of Existing Failed System and the Existing Functioning System site evaluation checklists dated February 13, 2025 are hereby approved by the IDOH; and
- c) Submit a report to the IDOH TRP containing information on the SludgeHammer ABG product use for the previous calendar year. The report is due by January 31 of the following year and shall include the following information:
  - 1) Total number of SludgeHammer ABG units sold for use in Indiana, address and county of each install, owners name, owner's mailing address, type of use, and design flow, and
  - 2) Date of installation and start up.

**II. The use of the SludgeHammer® ABG product is subject to:**

- a) The owner or owner's agent must obtain a construction permit issued by the local health department (LHD) for the use of the SludgeHammer ABG product for repair of the on-site sewage system.
- b) Installation shall be completed by a SludgeHammer ABG manufacturer certified installer.
- c) The property utilizing a residential or commercial on-site sewage system experiencing biomat formation failure in the soil absorption field may only be considered as a candidate for rejuvenation using the SludgeHammer ABG product if the LHD or IDOH has a complete construction permit on file for the site.
- d) Start-up of the system and initial operation checks shall be conducted and documented by a SludgeHammer ABG manufacturer certified professional.



- e) The SludgeHammer ABG installation tank must provide a minimum retention time of 48 hours of the system's daily design flow or meet or exceed current septic tank sizing requirements.
- f) The SludgeHammer ABG product shall not be proposed for installations where:
  - 1) The seasonal or perched water table, as identified in a soil evaluation report, would be less than twenty-four inches below the bottom of a subsurface soil absorption field or less than twenty inches below the bottom of an above-ground soil absorption field unless modified by subsurface drainage, or
  - 2) The existing septic tank has not been inspected and shown to be watertight, or
  - 3) The proposed installation is to precede a dry well, cesspool, or discharge tile.
- g) The permittee shall maintain a service agreement with a SludgeHammer ABG manufacturer certified service provider throughout the lifetime of use of the SludgeHammer ABG product.
- h) The SludgeHammer ABG product shall be inspected at a minimum of twice a year or more frequently to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the product and soil absorption system.
- i) A copy of the service contract must be submitted to the local health department prior to the issuance of the on-site sewage system permit for the SludgeHammer ABG product; and must be renewed at a minimum annually.

This approval may be revoked or modified by the TRP for non-compliance by SludgeHammer, or if it is documented that it would not be in the best interests of public health for approvals to continue.

If you wish to request administrative review of this *Approval* pursuant to Indiana Code 4-21.5-3-5, you must file a petition for review within fifteen (15) days after this *Approval* is received.

The petition for review must be in writing and must include facts demonstrating that:

- The petitioner is a person to whom the *Approval* is specifically directed;
- The petitioner is aggrieved or adversely effected by the *Approval*; or
- The petitioner is entitled to review under any law.



Any petition for review should be submitted in writing to the State of Indiana Office of Administrative Law Proceedings in one of the following ways:

1. Go online to [www.in.gov/oalp](http://www.in.gov/oalp) and complete a Petition for Review (State Form 56961 (5-20));
2. Mail your petition for review to the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings at 100 N. Senate Avenue, Suite N-802, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204; or
3. Appear in person at the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings at 100 N. Senate Avenue Suite N-802, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, and file your petition for review. You will need this document to complete your petition.

If you do not object to this product approval, you do not need to take any further action.

Sincerely,

Michael Mettler, REHS  
Director  
Environmental Public Health Division  
317/233-7183  
[mmettler@health.in.gov](mailto:mmettler@health.in.gov)