This is a clarification of Rule 36.

36. **Elevated sand mound system & perimeter drainage**. Mark "YES" if soil has ***all*** these properties:
    - No bedrock, fragipan, coarse sand & gravel, or dense till limiting layer < 20" from soil surface ***and***
    - SWP or PD ***and***
    - ≤ 6% slope

Some questions have been raised about the perimeter drain referred to in Rule 36 on the Home Site scorecard. The goal of the onsite sewage treatment systems described in AY-362 is to provide at least 24 inches of aerated soil to treat the sewage effluent coming from the septic tank. In the case where we are dealing with a soil that is poorly or somewhat poorly drained, nature has not left us with 24 inches of aerated soil. We must create 24 inches of aerated material by building an elevated sand mound above the original surface. In order for this to work we must lower the water table so that the sand mound plus some of the natural soil is dry enough to provide the aerated conditions for the organisms that treat the effluent passing through it. They need plenty of oxygen for healthy living. The perimeter drain is the part of the system that lowers the water table sufficiently to create 24 inches of aerated soil. The perimeter drain is put in place when the mound is constructed and not before. It carries only water out of the soil. There is enough separation distance so that no effluent reaches the perimeter drain. The same soil investigation by a registered soil scientist is used as the basis for designing the elevated sand mound and also for the perimeter drain around the absorption field.